

MBA Debate Continues Dominance

Around the Country

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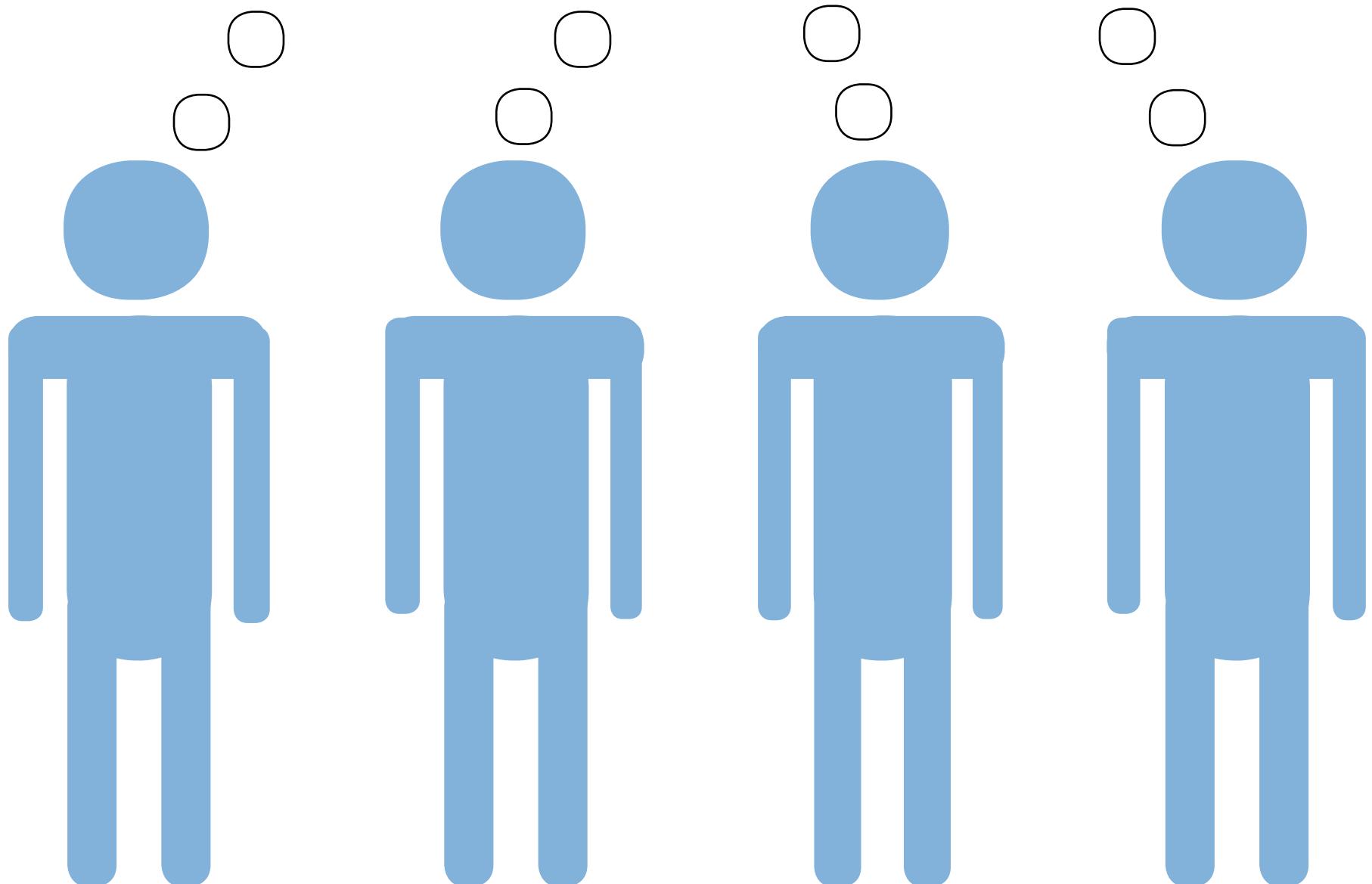
Meet Your New Teachers: An In-Depth

Q&A

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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY
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Psychology of Sports Injuries At MBA



By Isaac Wills
Entertainment Editor

It is no secret that sports play an integral role in the daily lives of many MBA students. Tabbed as one of three core elements in MBA's motto of "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete," sports serve as an outlet from and a complement to the rigors of the classroom.

Many valuable lessons are to be learned on the court, field, or track. Sports teach student-athletes the fundamentals of discipline, team-dynamics, commitment, and time-management. They concern themselves with practical learning

of the technical, physical, and mental variety.

Moreover, one of the greatest challenges on this hypothetical sports learning curve is the sports injury. This setback is commonplace in competitive sports, and student-athletes are constantly circulating in-and-out of the Athletic Trainer's office. From minor tweaks and aches to breaks and tears, Athletic Trainer Emeka Nnadi and his supporting staff field it all.

The immediate course of action being physical therapy, student-athletes engage in various recovery processes. While some injuries require

a "waiting game," others involve a more intentional regimen. Several MBA students have elicited the services of rehab programs such as MPower to expedite this process.

While the physical aspect of sports injuries is pressing, it is the psychological component that is more demanding. Student-athletes must overcome oftentimes overlooked emotional hurdles in order to remain mentally engaged upon a return to action.

To investigate this challenge further, *The Bell Ringer* reached out to three student-athletes who have dealt and are dealing with crippling injuries.

Ford Brewer, a senior basketball player, has been sidelined due to a series of three concussions he endured over his sophomore and junior years. Emphasizing the emotional toll that these concussions had on him, Ford shared, "The main difficulty I have had is dealing with the feeling of disappointment about not being able to play basketball. . . I had a lot more emotional issues regarding my sophomore year because my recovery took so long."

He proceeded to describe the sense of entrapment he felt: "I

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Trump Administration Wrestles with Controversial Stance on DACA

By Colin Snell
Staff Writer

The past few weeks on Capitol Hill have been hectic ones as the Trump administration wrestles with a decision deciding the future of a program called DACA.

DACA, short for “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals”, an Obama era program that allowed people who entered the country illegally as minors to be deferred from deportation on a renewable two year period and to be eligible for a work permit. The prerequisite to apply for the program was a thorough vetting process: must have entered before applicants 16th birthday, must be currently in school, a high school graduate or be honorably discharged from the military, be under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012, and not

healthcare or welfare to participants.

The initial reaction to DACA was one of extreme opposition from almost all of the Republican party, claiming the implementation as a gross abuse of presidential power. Many claimed former President Obama did not possess the authority to bypass immigration law and create a new program “out of thin air”.

During President Trump’s campaign trail, he expressed his strong opposition to the program and made promises to see it discontinued. His stance on the matter gained him the support of many southern Republican states, many of whom threatened to sue over the implementation of DACA.

The September 5th, deadline imposed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and nine other state attorneys general, forced the President to make a decision. On the day of the deadline President

The initial reaction to DACA was one of extreme opposition from almost all of the Republican party.

have been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor or three other misdemeanors, or otherwise pose a threat to national security. This program does not provide a clear path to citizenship, nor does it provide

A SUMMER OF PROTEST: These protesters from the GOP Statesmen’s dinner made clear that, prior to Trump’s explicit comments about DACA this september, protesters were already speaking up in anticipation of what was to come. .



PHOTO: The Tennessean



UP IN ARMS: Hundreds of protesters gathered to march from Centennial Park to the State Capitol in early September to show their anger towards the handing of DACA.

PHOTO: The Tennessean

Trump announced that the Trump administration will indeed phase out DACA with a six month intermittent period, solidifying the opinion that the program was “an end-run around Congress” that violated “the core tenets that sustain our Republic.”

The decision was met with instant outrage across the country as masses seemed to appear out of thin air and pour into the streets to protest. Cities such as New York City, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, and even Nashville saw protests take shape following the decision.

Since then, President Trump has seemingly backtracked on his statement. The morning of September 14th, Democratic leaders Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Nancy Pelosi announced that they were in discussions with President Trump on making a deal regarding the future of the DACA program. Later that same day Trump

confirmed the news, stating that the deal would also include funding for his long promised border wall. The announcement was met with immediate outrage from conservatives and Trump’s Republican allies in congress.

A White House spokesperson Lindsay Walters told reporters “The Trump administration will not be discussing amnesty, What the Trump administration will discuss is a responsible path forward in immigration reform, that could include legal citizenship over a period of time.” All of these revelations come as complete shock to the public as DACA seemed all but doomed. President Trump has even been outspoken in defending DACA recipients tweeting they are “good, educated and accomplished young people” who “have been in our country for many years through no fault of their own”.

The coming days and weeks ahead will give us a better insight into the supposed deal being brokered in the White House and what the permanent future of DACA will be. The past of this program, its support and opposition, have been sporadic, and I fully expect the future to be more of the same.

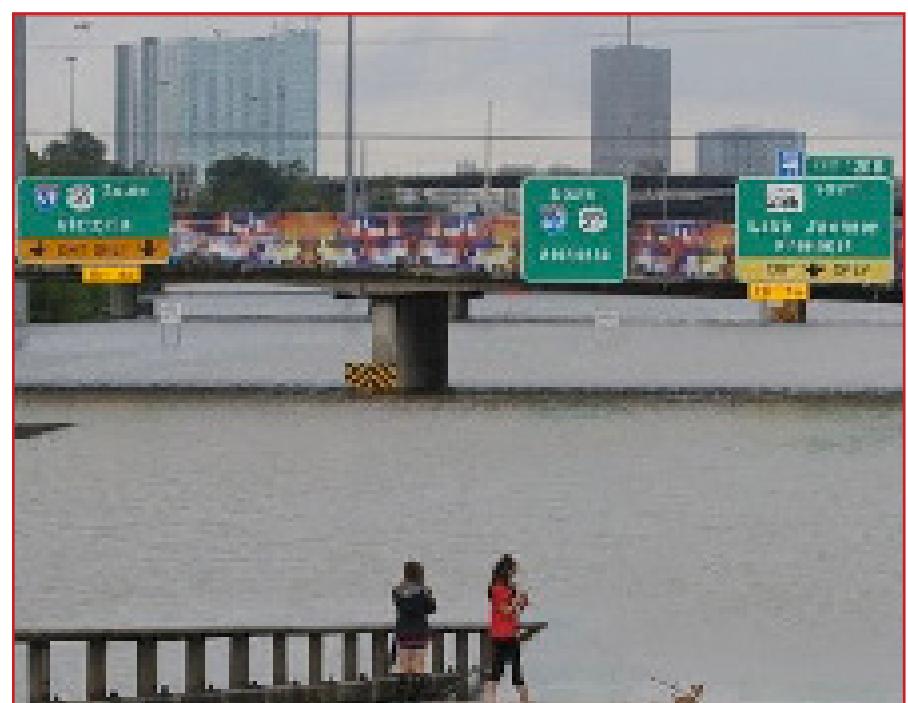
Donate to the Hurricane Relief Efforts

Recent hurricanes have wreaked havoc on the southeastern coastlines. Harvey and Irma have resulted in a combined death toll of well over 100, have left thousands homeless, and have caused tens of billions of dollars in damages. Although these hurricanes blew through weeks ago, their effects are still being felt. The recovery efforts are far from over and those affected could really use your help. MBA senior Rob Harvey is having a drive for donations to aid those affected by the storms, and your support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to know more about the drive or to donate, email Rob (rob.harvey18@montgomerybell.edu). We're all in this together, gentleman. Let's help our fellow Americans in need.



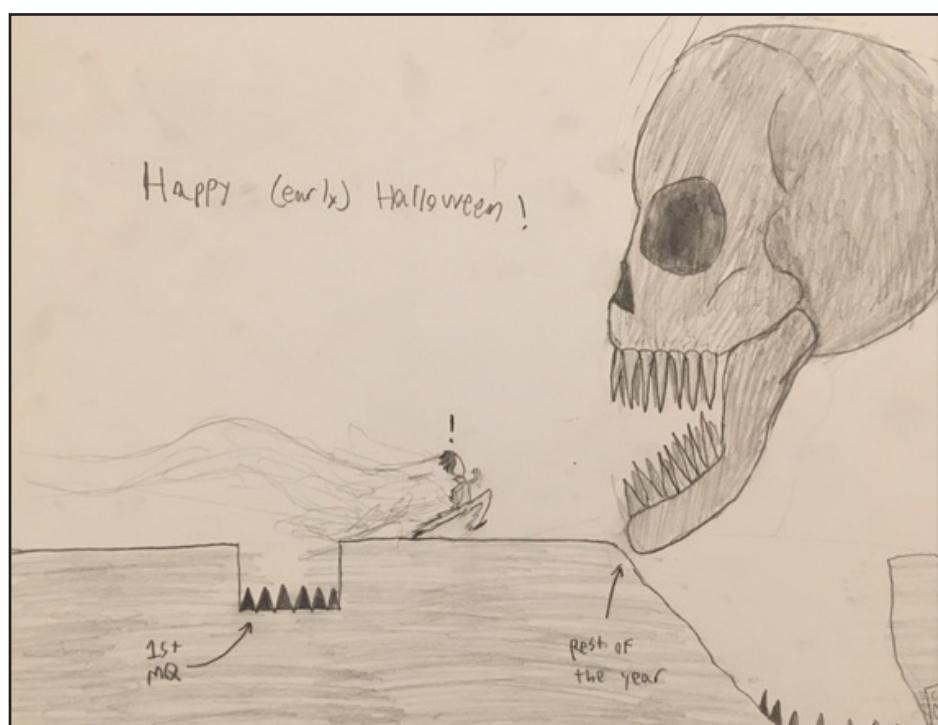
SWEPT AWAY: Many Nashvillians distinctly remember when, in 2010, the city was battered by the largest flood in the city's history.

PHOTO: The Tennessean



NO PLACE TO GO: The scenes in Houston and Florida are reminiscent of the natural disaster that hit Nashville seven years ago. Donate to help the relief effort in the most effected places..

PHOTO: The Washington Post



CARTOON: Mickey Kelly ('20) reminds students only the first obstacle of the year is through.

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Time to Pay College Athletes?

Pro:

By Ben Coulthard
Co-Editor-in-Chief

9.15 billion dollars. Out of the 231 Division I schools in the NCAA that report data, this is the amount of money college athletes bring to their respective colleges and universities just based off of their athletic abilities. These athletes see their jerseys and merchandise in shops around campus being sold, however, they also see zero of the money that is made off their likenesses back in their own pockets. Due to NCAA regulations, athletes are prohibited from earning money off of their performance in their respective sports or off of their likenesses if they are good enough athletes to be promoted by the university. These athletes are exploited by the NCAA for every dollar in a multi-billion dollar industry and receive nothing in return. If these young men and women provide additional funding to their respective schools, they deserve a cut of the profits.

"Student-athletes", as they are most aptly named and frequently called by universities and the NCAA, are expected to perform the same duties as a normal student, such as going to all classes and maintaining grades to remain eligible in the classroom. However, they also are devoting anywhere from forty to sixty hours per week to their sport for a majority of the year in addition to the time they spend focused on classes. They don't have the luxury for any mistakes, be it in the classroom or on the field, many a time being sleep deprived and hungry. The athletes work long hours, sometimes from as early as 4:30 AM to as late as 10 PM for lifts and mandatory study halls, then have to fit in time to eat, study, watch film, and have any kind of a social life on campus. With all the time the athletes put in by working for school and athletics, they have no wages. They are not working at minimum wage, they are working quite simply for no wage. These long work weeks aren't even rewarded with extra money to pay for amenities like going out to dinner once a week or having some spending money to see the latest movie in theaters.

Yet, there are still strong opponents to paying student-athletes. Some claim that an athletic scholarship and having the opportunity to represent the college as an athlete ought to be enough compensation. However, the average full athletic scholarship at the Division I level is around \$25,000. Schools at the Ivy League and Division III levels, where numerous MBA athletes continue their athletic careers, don't even offer athletic scholarships. Money at those levels comes as merit-based

only, meaning academic honors is where scholarship money is rewarded. With the money that is earned through a scholarship, it will only cover the most basic needs of a college student, such as tuition, housing, and meals. When total costs are higher than the money given in a scholarship, the athlete and their family pays out of pocket, meaning the scholarship wasn't enough to pay for the full costs of college. If the athletes were given some form of a stipend, many would use the extra cash to offset the cost of college they still have to pay for.

The biggest opponent to paying athletes of all is the NCAA, the governing body of intercollegiate athletics. The NCAA is notorious for penny-pinching, stretching out every dollar they earn, and the student-athletes that generate revenue receive slim to none of the earnings that they are producing. This might be understandable if the NCAA wasn't making nearly 1 billion dollars in revenue. Their top executives are making close to 1 million dollars a year, with their president Mark Emmert having a base salary of \$1.462 million prior to bonuses. Similarly, the average salary of a Division I coach of a major sport (baseball, basketball, and football) sits close to \$100,000. These coaches also receive bonuses if their team reaches the postseason or wins a championship, yet the players that lead these teams to victories not only don't get a bonus, they get no money to start with. The NCAA also has deals with advertisers as well as television companies to make money broadcasting these amateur athletes. During March Madness, the tournament generated \$1.15 billion in television ads, more than that generated by the NBA or NFL playoffs. Similarly, around the 2014 season, the NCAA reached a \$10.8 billion television agreement over 14 years. Still, the athletes being broadcasted don't receive a penny of the cash.

The NCAA claims that student-athletes are "amateurs" therefore giving themselves an out for not having to pay the athletes. It seems to be more allowing them to control how the billions of dollars they are earning are really used. Athletes do not need paychecks that they would be given every month, but they should at least have the opportunity to make some extra money off their abilities, like signing endorsements or getting money for signing autographs that would then be used for basic wants and needs of a college student. It's pretty simple. It's time to pay athletes. The NCAA is a business making money, and their employees, the athletes, deserve a paycheck of some form.

Con:

By Jackson McFadden
Staff Writer

One of the most debated questions that has surrounded college athletics for many years is the question of whether or not college athletes should be paid. The main argument of most people who are in favor of paying college athletes is that many college athletics are widely publicized on TV and there is a lot of merchandise that has the names of college athletes on it and so these athletes should get a cut of the money that comes in. However, it is right for college athletes to not be paid because most of them are already on some sort of scholarship, not all athletic programs bring in the same amount of money, and paying athletes would take away from the competitive spirit of the sport.

It does seem like it is rare to hear about an athlete receiving a full scholarship to go play a college sport and, indeed, it is rare. However, many athletes receive partial scholarships or, if the school does not give scholarships like division three schools, then the school will help the athlete get financial aid. These scholarships or financial aid act as payment, in a way. The athletes are getting an education, a meal plan, and housing for free or partially paid for. If the athletes got paid in addition to all of the perks from scholarships, college athletics would be almost identical to professional sports. In addition, for the players who begin their careers as walk-ons, if college athletes were paid, either the coaches for the teams would not take walk-ons anymore or the walk-ons would get paid and then they would not work to earn a scholarship. Players such as JJ Watt, Baker Mayfield, and Hunter Renfrow would not have had the motivation to earn a scholarship if they had been paid to start their careers in college, even as walk-ons.

In professional sports, most of the teams in a certain league or sport bring in similar amounts of money. An organization that is more successful on the field or court may bring in more money than an organization of the same sport that is not as successful, but it is not going to be a substantial amount. Therefore, the pay for the top athletes on each team will be similar to each other and the pay for the backups on the teams will be similar to each other. In college sports, the amount of money that each school and each sport brings in can vary greatly from that of another school. For example, the Kentucky Men's Basketball Team brings in

much more money than the Samford Men's Basketball Team. Both of these teams participate in Division I but the Kentucky team is much more successful and gets on national TV more, gets more endorsement offers, and more companies that want to advertise at their games. All of these factors lead to the Kentucky basketball program, and the university as a whole, bringing in more money. Therefore, top players from Kentucky's basketball team would get paid much more than the top players from Samford's basketball team. This unequal pay would be unfair because the players are playing in the same Division, the same sport, and are the top players on their respective team.

Finally, if college athletes were being paid to play, the competitive spirit of the game would be taken away from the players and the sports would become less appealing to sports fans. Athletes who are passionate about a sport are always working to get better at that sport so that they can play at the next level. College athletes are a prime example of this hard work because many of these athletes are shown nationwide on TV. They are working to make it to the professional level of their sport so that they can make a living out of something they love. Because they are trying to make it to the next level, in every game, the athletes are attempting to play to their best in order to get noticed by professional scouts. When athletes play to their best, the games are usually competitive and are enjoyable to watch for fans. If these college athletes were getting paid, then they would not feel the need to try to play to their best because they were already being paid and so they athletics would become less intriguing to fans. Many fans enjoy college sports more than professional sports for that very reason. The professional athletes do not try to play to their best ability all the time because they have no drive to get to another level and because they are already getting paid.

If college athletes were paid to play, college sports would change drastically for the worst. Many athletes would lose the drive to work hard and get to the next level. In addition, there is already a payment system of sorts that comes in the form of scholarships and financial aid. It is the right move for college athletes to not get paid to play college sports.

Taking on the Issues of Statue Removal

Pro:

By Aden Barton
Staff Writer

Here at Montgomery Bell Academy, we pride ourselves on our commitment to the past.

Our investment in tradition and history is shown our signing of the ledger at the start of every school year and the Latin classes we all take. However, a focus on tradition and history is not only found in this school, but rather is rooted in our ideals as Americans. We like to think that America has been exceptional and different all the way back to our beginnings. Glorifying the founding of our country as a bastion of democracy and liberty is common and celebrated.

This commitment to our roots is one of the factors leading to the controversy sweeping the nation about what to do with historical statues and paintings. This issue could not be more related to Montgomery Bell Academy as our very name sake is a prime example of a historical figure that so many people are denouncing.

The images on campus that glorify or commemorate slave owners or confederate soldiers should be taken down or modified. Although history is important, we often ignore that remembering the past is not value neutral. We need to begin with recognizing that the democracy that America was founded on was not accessible to most. Males of color had almost no political or economic power. Walking by those monuments provides a different experience for everyone. Some see a brilliant general whose courage should be idealized and others see the leader of an army that fought to keep their people enslaved.

Who we decide to immortalize with statues and paintings says a lot about our culture, because it shows who we look up to. We can not turn a blind eye to the atrocities that many of our “heroes” committed. As our nation becomes increasingly divided, why should we celebrate figures that only fragment our communities more? We should be choosing monuments that everyone can celebrate and appreciate, bringing cultures closer together.

Who we commemorate also illuminates our value system at

Montgomery Bell. For example, many people defend the statue in front of the library by saying that the young man fought for his cause and died, which is what we are celebrating. This argument, taken to its logical extreme, would say that any person is noble as long as they are willing to sacrifice themselves for a greater cause. However, the integrity of a person is based as much in the goal they are striving for as what they are willing to do to achieve that goal. We would not celebrate someone who went to any lengths to cheat, even if they sacrificed everything to get ahead. Similarly, we should not celebrate someone that contributed to a war effort that sought to continue the dehumanization of an entire population.

There has been a push to remedy the statue in front of the library of the boy hero with a statue of Montgomery Bell. This idea is confusing because it adds a problematic statue to deal with an already offensive statue. It is reminiscent of the scene in Talladega Nights when Ricky Bobby sticks a knife in his leg to get another knife out of his leg. To say that Montgomery Bell was noble because he set all of his free slaves free at the end of his life would ignore that for the majority of his life he directly enslaved a population he deemed to be subhuman. Just because someone realizes they did something wrong at the end of their life does not excuse themselves for the sin they committed. Especially when Montgomery Bell only released his slaves when they personally had no economic value to him anymore because he was dead. Even if Montgomery Bell was noble, we still need to acknowledge that our very school was built off the labor of an exploited population. When we pay homage to a controversial figure, we necessarily create an excluded population, that can not engage in our same celebration. In a time where our nation is increasingly polarized, we need to come together behind figures that we can all acknowledge as honorable.

Con:

By Jonathan Brown
Staff Writer

Montgomery Bell Academy has recently been faced with the question of whether to augment, take down, or keep the Sam Davis statue that currently stands in front of the Wilson Library. In the past year, dozens of controversial statues have been removed and destroyed across the country, most of which portray Robert E. Lee and other Confederate soldiers and officers. However, a line must be drawn between statues that have historical significance and statues that have become inappropriate due to their purpose and the racist ideals that the men they portray stood for. What then is the Sam Davis statue's purpose and meaning?

Sam Davis was born on October 6, 1842, in Rutherford County, which is only an hour Northeast of Nashville. His family owned a moderately large plantation along with 50 slaves. If the fact that Sam Davis's family owned slaves merits its removal, then statues of George Washington should also while he received 10 slaves from his parents, who owned approximately 300 slaves, when he was 11 years old. Furthermore, the purpose of the statue is not to point to the fact that slaves played a role in Sam Davis's life, but to highlight the ideals that he represented.

Davis was caught inside Union lines and was charged with espionage and sentenced to death. However, the general who caught him stated that if Davis told him the names of his informants, he would receive a lesser punishment. When the Union general attempted to intimidate Davis into conceding by having him sit on his own coffin, Davis replied that he would rather die a thousand deaths than betray a friend. Then, on the day he was to be executed, Davis told the hangman, who was hesitant to carry out his orders, “Officer, I did my duties, now you do yours.”

After Davis's execution took place and his story spread, he became eulogized for his loyalty and sacrifice admired by both Union and Confederate soldiers, becoming a

widespread symbol of honor amidst a period of grief and loss. Therefore, the statue symbolizes the steadfast character and loyalty that MBA attempts to instill in its students.

Also, the statue is among the plaques recognizing students who died in either World War I or II, which emphasizes that the ideals that Davis embodies carry beyond the Civil War and to those that

The statue symbolizes the steadfast character and loyalty that MBA attempts to instill in its students.

died in the military but came from similar backgrounds. Similarly, Sam Davis is technically an alum. He attended the Western Military Institute, which in 1867 merged to form MBA. Another factor that would provide reason to keep the statue would be to avoid the suggestion to augment the statue with another statue of Montgomery Bell. Our school began with the endowment from Montgomery Bell before he died, which is seen as an act of charity and the pursuit of higher education. However, Montgomery Bell made his fortune through his steel company, Cumberland River Iron, which used the labor of approximately 2,000 slaves, not to mention nine of whom were hung in order to silence a threat of insurrection. Some look past this and say that he genuinely cared for his slaves, since he paid for approximately one hundred of them to be shipped to Liberia. This evidence only reveals the fact that he believed that races should not coexist.

The statue of Sam Davis should stay on campus while he represented the ideals MBA pursues and remained unaltered in his character when faced with extreme consequence, just as many of the veterans did whose names lay beside him.



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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.edu (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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Thoughts From the Editors: Enjoy Your Time

By Ben Coulthard and Jack Capizzi

It's not even a quarter through the year, and both of us have used this time to do some reflection about MBA and life itself. All of last year, we heard as juniors just how hard senior year would be as seniors rushed to finish college applications while trying to balance the daily life that comes at MBA. No way would things get this crazy when we became seniors.

Yet, in our 4th and final year at MBA, things already are going very, very fast. Having to manage AP English with nightly essays while finishing labs for Dr. Marro's AP Chem class is so much work for one night, and then the next day there's play practice and memorizing a soliloquy from *Hamlet*. It's a #grind.

Even with all this work, we've had to sit back and realize this is our last year on the Hill, and we ought to enjoy it even with the work thrust upon us. We came up with some advice for the underclassmen:

Go to the football game on Friday nights and cheer on your friends. There are only so many Friday nights left where you can douse your body in red paint.

Take your work seriously. While MBA is a #grind, realize the homework you do each night and the tests you study for will be the grades that colleges will be looking at come time to apply to college.

That being said, do find time to take a break and relax. While academics are a primary focus at MBA (for good reason), there's no reason you can't go spend time with your friends. Enjoy the weekends watching football. Go to a play and support your fellow brothers in their efforts at the same time. Take time to realize there will be a point where you won't see your classmates every day, and then go cherish the moments with them while you still are with them.

That's all we have for now. Enjoy your time, gents, and as always, Roll Red.



SLEEP IS FOR THE WEAK: Use those extra hours in the wee hours to get ahead on your homework due next Monday.



TEDDY'S RIGHT: Enjoy your time on the Hill. There's only so much left.

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Contact Jack Capizzi or Ben Coulthard if you are interested.



The Road to Maryville: MBA Players Prepare *Animal Farm* For Competition

By Jack Capizzi
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On October 27th, the Montgomery Bell Academy players will take a trip up to Maryville, Tennessee, to compete in the Tennessee Theater Association One-Act competition. MBA will be performing a 45 minute rendition of George Orwell's, Animal Farm.

The One Act competition features performances from various schools across Tennessee who must all complete their production under the time cap of 45 minutes. In that span of time they must move their set onto the stage, finish their show, and then clear the stage of any set pieces or props.

MBA's production of Animal Farm depicts what has become a classic story at a time when George Orwell's pastoral tale is as pertinent as it has ever been. Dr. Fuller, who is directing the production, said of the show, "I've wanted to direct Animal Farm for years, ever since I came to MBA 20 years ago. It was on the original list that I gave Mr. Gioia when I interviewed to teach theater at MBA. I had enjoyed the story when I was a student at Baylor in the

1970s. Currently, George Orwell's popularity is on the rise. He's surged to the top on the bestseller list again because in his cautionary fable the animals show us so much about our human desire for equality but also for power and greed. It's as timely now as when he first wrote it in the 1940s."

In some of their earliest rehearsals, the cast received instruction of the highest caliber from MBA alum, Jeffrey Frace. Mr. Frace currently teaches theater at the University of Washington and has previously acted for a number of years with Anne Bogart's prestigious Saratoga International Theater Institute in New York. This year's artist-in-residence taught the players about various ways of approaching "the method," particularly through the use of advanced technique of viewpoints.

On October 27, the players will make the three hour journey to Maryville to compete. There will be a performance at MBA prior to their departure on Wednesday, October 25, for anyone interested. There will also be a series of performances of an extended version of the show the following week.



SETTING THE STAGE: The Cast of *Animal Farm* rehearses one of their most complicated scenes, featuring the construction of a human windmill.

PHOTOS: DR.FULLER



MBA Debate Starts their Season on Top

By Aden Barton
Staff Debater

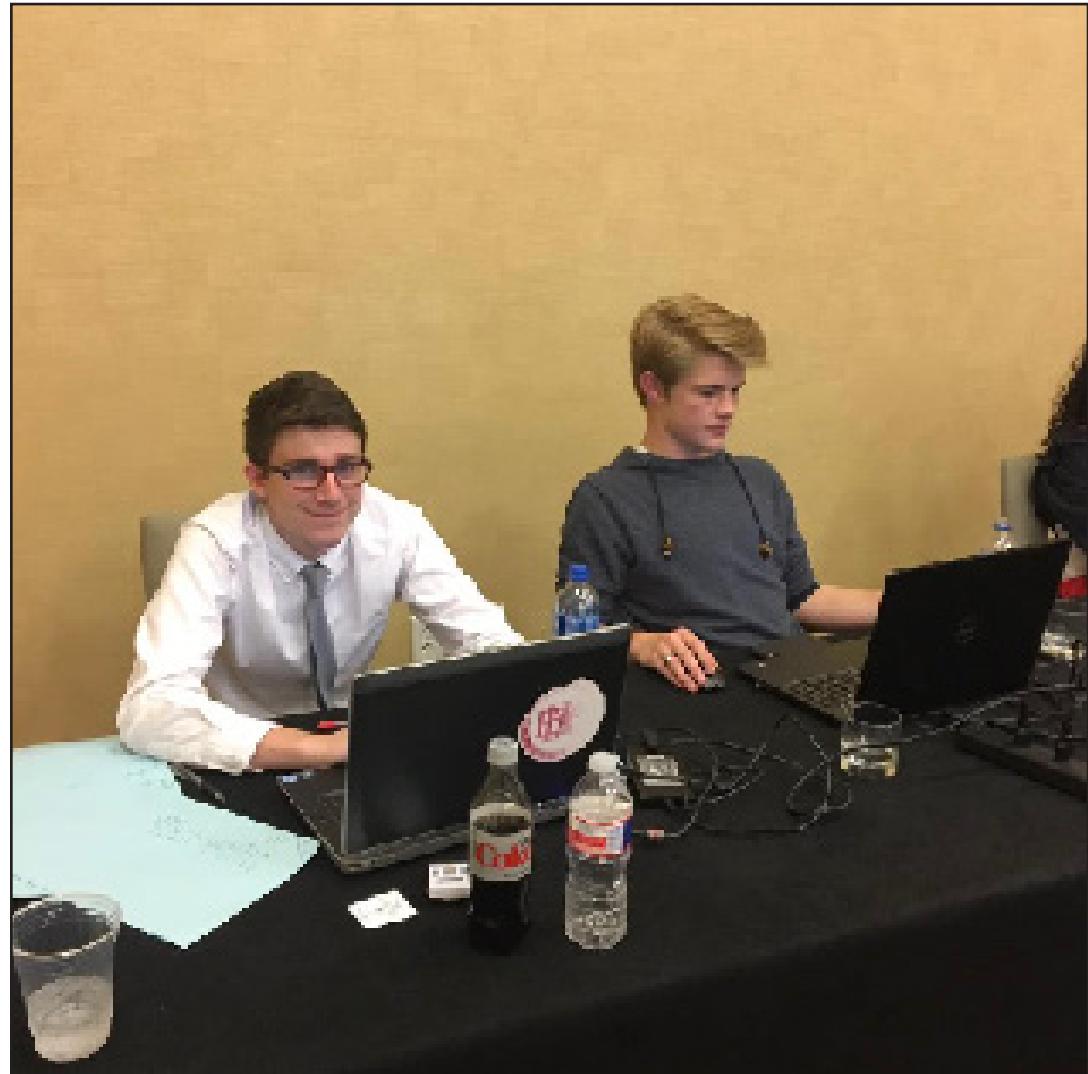
The debate season never really stops for MBA debaters. After more than 7 long weeks of practice, research, and speeches the students are ready for another year of competition. Returning from camps all over the country, the team is more prepared now than we ever have been at the start of the year. Although we lost many talented debaters, we have gained many more as well. Not only has the number of Junior Varsity and Varsity members increased, but the school has hired a new coach, Austen Yorko, to help coach. Coming from his last year at Trinity Debate, he is a powerhouse researcher, putting massive amounts of work to turn out huge amounts of files. When asked about his thoughts for the new year, Austen said, "I am very excited for the 2017-18 MBA debate season. Since I am new to the program, I look forward to learning the skills and talents of the debaters. So far they all have an incredible work ethic, which I know will translate into a great success." Not only will Austen help research and turn out files, but he also hopes to travel along with the debaters to different tournaments throughout

the year, providing helpful hands on coaching before rounds.

The debate team has changed more than in just the numbers of coaches or debaters. Because of the senior's leaving, most partnerships have been rearranged. With Liam Jameson debating at the University of California at Berkeley, his partner Atticus Glen is debating with Julian Habermann. For the first tournament of the year, Patrick Dennis and Jack Rankin debated together at the Ohio Valley Season Opener. After going 6-0 in prelims, they were the third seed going into eliminations rounds. Narrowly losing in octofinals, they just missed getting a bid to the tournament of champions. However, Jack Rankin got 3rd speaker in the whole tournament.

Before the second tournament of the year, there is a round robin where the top 16 teams in the nation compete head to head. The competition is made up of two pods, each with 8 teams, and after 7 rounds the top two teams from each pod debate each other. For the first time since 2006, two teams from the same school were invited. MBA was able to send the partnership of Julian and Atticus and the duo of myself and Ben Jablonski. The event is incredibly competitive, because

POISED FOR GREATNESS: Aden Barton and Ben Jablonski prepare for the final round of the Greenhill Tournament. Team BJ will begin the season as the first ranked team in the the nation. **PHOTO: MR.CLARK**



A BIG HAUL: (Left to Right) Julian Habermann, Patrick Dennis, Atticus Glen, and Jack Rankin show off their awards from the prestigious Greenhill Tournament. **PHOTO: MR. CLARK**

every single round you are facing an opponent that you would only usually debate in the late elimination rounds of a tournament. For the first time in Greenhill Round Robin history, a school won both pods to close out finals. MBA secured two finishes at first place, beating out all the other debaters.

When the following tournament began, Patrick and Dennis down to Dallas to debate as well. After prelims, the MBA debate team was cumulatively 16-2. Every team advanced to the octofinals, earning a bid to the Tournament of Champions. After losing a close round in the octofinals, Patrick and Rankin were out of the tournament. Julian and Atticus narrowly lost to a team from Chicago that would go on to win the tournament. Finally, the Chicago team beat MBA out in finals to secure first place. In terms of speaker awards, Julian secured an impressive 9th place speaker award and Atticus received a 15th speaker award.

Looking back on the

start of the season, Ben Jablonski commented, "We've already done pretty well in the tournaments we've gone to, so I'm excited to see what's in front of us. As long as we keep up this pace of hard work and research, I think we'll do great." MBA has already made a name for itself as one of the most well researched teams in the circuit. Now, with so many more juniors and sophomores in their 3rd and 4th years of debate, we are poised to continue that momentum.

The next tournament on the calendar is in Chicago, at the New Trier school. Many talented teams will be attending the tournament, including the Niles West team from the finals of Greenhill. A few very skilled teams that did not attend Greenhill will also be starting in the national circuit at New Trier, including a team from Iowa City West. Even though the beginning of the season is promising with the MBA debate team showing its dominance at Greenhill and Ohio Valley, we will need to continue this momentum and research to achieve the success that we experienced last year.

New York Times Correspondent Anthony DePalma Visits with *The Bell Ringer*



On September 25, Anthony DePalma, the Cuban correspondent of *The New York Times*, sat down for lunch with the staff of *The Bell Ringer*. He shared anecdotes of his own career, including how he came to work for *The New York Times* and how to run a school newspaper effectively.

PHOTO: Photography Club



Caroline Randall Williams Brings Perspective, Expertise, to the Hill

By Stewart Moore
Staff Question Asker

Caroline Randall Williams has deep roots at MBA. After all she spent many of her formative years making friendships with the boys of the Hill, before leaving for prep school in the Northeast and later Harvard. For the Nashville native, whose mother co-taught with Mr. Gioia, coming to MBA has been like coming home. She joins an accomplished English department at MBA with a few achievements of her own; Ms. Williams is the published author of a collection of poems, *Lucy Negro, Redux*, and a cookbook, *Soul Food Love*. I recently sat down with Ms. Williams and had the opportunity to discuss her thoughts on MBA, writing, and coming home.

What is it like to return to Nashville?

It's been amazing. Needless to say, the city has grown beyond recognition in some respects. I'm also grateful, though, for the ways in which it has not changed. I love the small live music venues, and running into old friends in restaurants, and picking up Donuts (these days for my students, not myself) at Donut Den. It is wonderful to a native in a city that is attracting so many visitors and finally getting the recognition that it deserves.

What factors brought you to MBA?

Coming to teach at MBA was, quite simply, an offer I could not refuse. I had the opportunity to speak to and workshop with the students this past April, and it was inspiring. I love the community here, and I was impressed with the willingness of the boys to leave their comfort zones and engage with poetry.

What kind of activities were you involved in in high school?

In high school, I acted, a lot, I was on the newspaper. I was the arch-editor of my high school newspaper. I rowed crew. I tried a bunch of other sports but that was the only one that I kept up with, and I was a member of the southern society at my boarding school in

New Hampshire. I was an acolyte. Those are the primary ones that come to mind: acolyte, acting, crew.

I sat on this committee; we lost our headmaster and they asked me to be one of the students that was on the rector search committee to help find a new headmaster

Did you carry over those interests when you went to college at Harvard?

I kept up with writing definitely and I kept up with my southern nest to some degree. In college, I kept up with creative writing for sure. I kept up with southerness, sort of, and then I acted for a semester, but I didn't keep it up as much as I think I would have liked to have. I thought about rowing crew in college, and then my alarm clock went off at five thirty the first week of school; I think it was on Thursday or Friday, and I was like, "Hmm, I'm not going to do that."

I was a part of the literary magazine, the *Harvard Advocate*. I didn't do the newspaper, which would be *The Crimson*, but I did really keep up with the *Advocate* and I loved that. I think those are my activities that primarily carried over.

What did you write about in college and in high school?

Both in college and high school I wrote a lot about what most young people write about which is themselves; I wrote a lot about me. Writing at that point was still very much a processing of emotions sort of act for me; I would write about what was going on in my life and how I was feeling about it, which now I strive to not do as much; I try to tell other peoples' stories and make observations about the world around me, as opposed to just talking about myself in my writing, but in high school and college it was a lot of me, me, me, and my work, and, you know, things about boarding school things about college that were hard or interesting. I wrote a couple of short stories in college that I enjoyed that



A NEW ADDITION: Ms. Williams brings a vast range of experience to the Hill. Currently, she is teaching English to the freshmen and sophomore classes. PHOTO: nashvillelifestyles.com

I'm proud of, but they were really exercises for what was going to come after more than anything else I think.

After high school and college did you continue to write?

My undergraduate thesis at Harvard was a collection of poems, which have not been published. A couple of them made it into my collection that is now out in the world as a book, but after college I moved to rural Mississippi to teach public school in the Mississippi Delta for two years, and while I was there, I kept writing some, and then I applied to graduate school at the University of Mississippi, so I got my MFA in creative writing. I wrote poetry for three years at Ole Miss, so I definitely kept up the writing after that. Then, I published a book, and I assort poems now and articles and things like that, essays.

What is the greatest difference teaching at MBA as compared to college?

Let's start with the obvious answers--teaching five days a week, and teaching all boys! The more exciting difference, and one I didn't expect, is how wildly prepared my students are. The work here is rigorous, and the quality of your education is profound. It makes for students who are unusually diligent and teachable. Also, I didn't realize

I would laugh so much!

Growing up in Nashville and attending USN, what was your view of MBA and has it changed since you've started teaching there?

I've always thought of MBA as a school that provides an education of the highest caliber. When I was in eighth grade, and applying to boarding school, I wished more than once that MBA could have been an option for me. Some of my best friends in the world attended this school. I think I would say that my opinion of it has not changed, but rather that my appreciation for it has deepened in the time that I've spent teaching here.

If you had to define yourself in two words, which would you choose?

Writer and educator, those would be my two because I love to teach that's like a really important part of my life and it always will be. I can't imagine a world in which I wouldn't always teach no matter what happened with my writing career.



Mr. Huntre Woolwine ('12) Adds Experience to the Theater Program

Interview by Harrison Kidd

So, what is your role at MBA?

I'm working IT and also helping around at the theater. I'm primarily a sort of safety manager in the theater, making sure people are doing safe practices on the grid, and then making sure things are wired correctly. Because I've worked on shows where safety was mentioned as a top concern, but not actually put into practice, I take it very seriously when I tell people to be safe and not touch certain things. Because I'm here, I wanna make sure everyone takes care of each other, so we can do some awesome stuff safely. That's kinda my big deal for me.

Tell me about your MBA experience.

Well, first of all, the Lowry building wasn't here until my second semester senior year. But, it was great. I really enjoyed just having my guy friends at school. I came here from Harding so I came the whole six years. And there was no dining hall here. It was Frist hall. Yeah, I never knew anything other than that, cool to see how that's changed. I had my best friends by 8th grade, and I still hang out with them pretty regularly, but none of them did theater. I had my other set of friends in theater which was pretty nice. All in all though, experience was good. I also was in jazz band. I had a band, it was called the moderates, we were always competing with A Boy Named Banjo, competing even though there was no competition in it at all. We played one song in assembly that got a standing ovation. That was a highlight. I think that video is online. It sounds horrible. Academically it was good, I didn't fail anything! I had a good time, and a lot of the teachers I had here are now my coworkers which is really exciting. They're all really good friends of mine now, and it's nice to appreciate the

school on the other side.

Tell me about your college experience.

I worked, I went to Sewanee for four years, and I was a theater major there, and then after I graduated I worked there for a year as their assistant technical director. They hire someone each year I had just graduated and so that year it was me, I was the only one remotely capable of doing the job so I worked there for a year. I'd like to call it my 5th year of college with no homework because I basically did what I was already doing as a work study but I was then responsible for all the students and their safety.

What was your favorite play you've been in thus far?

It's funny, I'll still probably say my favorite show --- even though I stunk in it --- was *Zombie Prom* during my freshman year of highschool. That was my first introduction to the high school program and we had so many cool special effects with it. But I guess my real favorite was *Annie Get Your Gun*, which was my sophomore musical and I played "Chief Sitting Bull." I have some of the happiest memories from there. I had some seniors that were really cool to me, and there was a lot of support from that point on to keep working in theater. The dancing was fun, the songs were fun, even though they were cutesy and old fashioned. Everyone got into it, everyone was in a good mood. My favorite show I worked on in college was probably Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, which was my senior year. That show, we had a volcano, the design was really cool, it was a horrible monster to build, but it later transferred to this hardcore metal design. The mortals were on the volcano side, and the Gods were on this futuristic metal side. We had this spiral staircase coming down from the catwalk, and that's where the gods came from. I was Zeus, back when I had really long hair.



Ms. Crystal Russell is Excited to work with MBA Students

Interview by Philip Scholer

Describe how you became a college counselor.

When I graduated from college, I was going to be an Army Officer and I ended up breaking my ankle in two places. The army said heel, reapply for your billet. We'll see what happens. I was in college during 9/11, so my unit was already deployed. The army, therefore, didn't know what to do with me once I got hurt, and they gave me the option of getting out, which I did, but I didn't have a plan.

And why did you want to become an Army Officer?

I was raised by Air Force Officer. Military is just part of my family and a part of my history, I suppose.

And at what point did you want to become an admissions officer?

Well no one graduates from college and says I want to go into college admissions. Because I didn't have a plan once I got hurt, I did some odd things. I moved to Florida for a couple of years and I started with an Enterprise Rent-A-Car Manager Training Program. I moved back to North Carolina and saw a listing for an admission counselor. As I was reading the description of the job, I check off all its box, thinking "Oh, I can do that." I like to travel and work with students. I was a camp counselor when I was a kid. Being a college admissions officer just made a lot of sense. So I applied for the job and became an admission officer at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Then, two years later, I moved to Rhodes. And I was there for five years.

Do you generally like your job?

I love my job. The favourite part of my job is working with students. I traveled all over the country for Rhodes and the last three years in particular I worked with students from California, Colorado, and two-thirds of Tennessee.

What advice can you give to students who are applying to college?

I think you should be empowered to tell your story. Every person is interesting and you have a story, so I think feeling value in that is important. And don't be afraid to ask for help.

What role has sports played in your life?

I was that person who went to school to play sports. My mom had a strict rule that if I brought home Cs I was off whatever team I was

New Faces

Various writers of *The Bell Ringer* sat down with the community to get a closer look at who they are and what they do.

on, so I made good enough grades not bring home Cs. I never played an instrument, but I could pick up a ball and I could play. So, I played three varsity sports in highschool and then four sports in college.

Do you still enjoy playing sports?

Some. So, I was in a motorcycle accident, and I broke my ankle again. Though, Rhodes I played rec-volleyball while I was at Rhodes. Because of my injuries I don't play basketball anymore. But I love watching sports.

Who is your favourite basketball team?

Well, living in Memphis, I'm going to go with the Grizzlies.

What drew you to MBA?

The quality of the students. I have recruited from MBA the last three years and every student and every guy I met coming from here was just impressive. So it's nice to be a part of that community.

What comparison do you see between your old job of an admissions officer to your new job of a college counselor?

Working with students. I think one of the strengths I had as a college admission officer was that I got to know the majority of the students that applied to Rhodes. Certainly, that relationship building is the comparison there. Also, I am able to understand how the admission officers are feeling. They are coming to MBA after 5 days on the road, so it is helpful to greet them with a friendly face and tell them I am always available.

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on the Hill

own with the new members of the MBA y are and what they hope to achieve during erviews continue on page 15.



Dr. Dustin Hedmark's Spirit Animal is the Weasel

Interview by William Bradford

Dr. Dustin Hedmark is sure to become one of Montgomery Bell Academy's biggest hits with his quick jokes and contagious smile. Coach Hedmark, who arrived on the hill this year, has a classroom with a central location in Coach Deutsch's "East Side," which he utilizes to instruct students on Geometry and Multivariable Calculus. Born in Chicago, Dr. Hedmark is perhaps one of the only people on campus with a legitimate link to the Cubs, who he follows closely in his free time - "Even though sometimes they're horrific, gotta ride the wave a little bit." It turns out Dr. Hedmark's allegiance to a few of the best teams in sports does not stop there; He became a fan of the University of Kentucky, having lived there for five years while attending the school for his PhD. Although he attempts to follow his alma mater's efforts in football, he finds UK basketball is an area much more suited for him (and the Wildcats as well).

His dissertation made waves when he discovered a few new theorems working in an area called "commontorics," ("It's basically counting things, which sounds really basic but gets really hard") and coined a new property called "box polynomials," a concept which could not be explained in this space of this article nor in your average algebra class and has just recently been published. He considers these ideas, outlined in his dissertation, to be his most significant accomplishment throughout his life so far. When

thinking of his greatest inspirations to pursue such mathematical achievements, his role models include other noted math whizzes and his father, who pushed him and taught him much about life and has helped him grow much throughout the years.

So far in his time at MBA, Dr. Hedmark has enjoyed instructing students in areas very close to his thesis. He enjoys helping students with Calculus because he feels it is a special subject entering many new territories which allow students to think outside of the box. In Geometry, he takes pride in instructing post-microbial life forms on proofs because they can help many freshman struggling while experiencing the "Big Red Bump." "It reminds me of when I was first learning to do proofs," he says, "and how challenging it can be to not only make a statement but to find ways to back up that statement." He loves watching his students play football and has become an avid supporter of the freshman football team; you can find him at any one of their games.

As for his extracurricular affiliations, Coach Hedmark is a jack-of-all-trades. He juggles several different activities and has found success nearly everywhere he goes. For starters, he is sure to become a valuable resource alongside Mrs. Qian on the mathcounts team, pushing students for success to make mathematical history. He also coaches football and wrestling where he is sure to become a true beacon for success. It will surely be hard to avoid Dr. Hedmark here on the Hill as his skills are many and in several different areas.

When searching for Dr. Hedmark on campus, you can usually find him by the coffeemaker in the library, which he notes is his favorite thing about MBA. Well, that and the brotherly atmosphere; Dr. Hedmark enjoys the camaraderie among the student body above (most) other aspects of the school - "I like talking to the students about sports and other aspects of their lives - but yeah, the coffee here is great."

On an equally important note, Coach Hedmark feels his spirit animal is the weasel because of its clever nature - "It's just very sneaky and conniving - but you don't always need a rational explanation for your spirit animal," he says, noting that when he

had a pet weasel it swiped red things from all over the house and hid them under the sink in his weasel bed. "If I had red pens out, gone. Bulls stuff, gone." Upon questioned about this connection between his spirit animal and MBA's signature color, he declined to comment - "Keep your cookie punch cards close on hand when visiting L14, gentlemen."

In closing, Dr. Hedmark would like all students to know that you can find him in his room in Lowry at any time - "My door is always open if you want to come talk about math or sports or anything else in life," he says, "I'm excited to become a bigger part of the culture here."



Mr. Casey Cook Switches Sidelines

Interview by Matthew Kaplan

Where are you from?
I'm from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Where'd you go to high school there?

McCallie.

What was it like coaching against McCallie?

It was pretty cool. It was a little bit weird and unique. I had obviously never been on a different sideline than McCallie, so it was a lot different. But it was nice seeing my former coaches, including a couple of my buddies, who I played with, coaching as well, which was really cool. But at the end of the day, it was just another game for me.

So you're coaching on the sidelines for MBA?

Yeah. So I'm helping out with the varsity on the sidelines and I'm helping coach the offense and defensive lines for the freshman team.

What are you doing on the sidelines during varsity games? Reading defenses?

Yes. So I'm making sure our special teams are ready to go-I'm helping out Coach McWhirter with that-and then I'm also charting defensive plays. So whenever we get the calls from Coach Chauvin up in the press box, I've got to be sure to write those down.

What's your take on the football atmosphere at MBA?

It's awesome. You know, coming from McCallie, I was expecting and used to an environment like this. A ton of students, ton of parents--just an electric environment. I was not shocked but it was still a great surprise to be back in the high school football environment, and just to be a part of that again.



Mr. Ryan Barclay Looks to Leave Mark on MBA, Student Body

Interview by Palmer Thombs

Where are you from?

Indianapolis, IN

Where did you go to college?

Ball State University - Muncie, IN

Where did you previously teach?

Warren Central High School - Indianapolis, IN

What subjects/grade levels are you teaching this year?

Cultural Geography - 8th Grade

What sports are you coaching?

Varsity Football - Defensive Line

What are your favorite hobbies?

Traveling, Spending time with my Wife (Kristen) and my daughter (Macy - 5), and football.

What did you do this summer?

We moved down to Nashville in early June. I coached football and spent a lot of quality time with my family. We also went to Disney World in late June. Coach Barclay happened to be there too with his family.

What is it like teaching and coaching alongside your brother?

Coach Barclay has been great in helping with the transition. We have always been close. I am excited to do life with him at MBA.

What excites you most about MBA?

The culture and rich history of the school and the football team.

Club Spotlight: John Preston ('19) Explains the Third Party Club

**Interview by Jack Capizzi
Editor-in-Chief**

So, there are been many people on the hill that are curious to figure out what the Third Party Club really is. Could you define it for them?

It's a very interesting club. We are very unique to the MBA campus because not only are we talking about very sensitive political topics but we tend to also not talk completely about political topics. It is this weird balance between completely on topic and completely off topic.

Could you describe how that relationship affects a weekly meeting of the Third Party Club?

It varies from being very organized to being completely unorganized actually. I am the president and we actually had elections a couple weeks ago. I elected some people but, as is common with any club, no one takes their job seriously. So, I am commonly the only one that is out there getting food for the meetings along with other things. And, sometimes, meetings can go into a sort of anarchistic state. These meetings tend to have no order at all but provide great discussion.

So I've heard that at your meetings you have different topics that you discuss every week or you will have someone present on a different political belief or mindset, could you tell me about your reasoning for wanting to provide a space for that as well as how you feel about how different ideas are represented on campus?

Well, as a wise man once said, "sharing is caring." So, whatever information you have on something that you know about, you know, you need to share it--you need to spread your ideals. So, yes, in fact, I often get people to come and speak for us. They are not necessarily big name speakers but they certainly do the job. They create a slideshow or something to explain a political system or activist group from across the world. Sometimes the topics are a little too touchy and I have to closet them for another week.

Could you give me an example of one of those topics?

Someone was assigned Black Lives Matter as a political movement to research and I had to contain that discussion as it could have gone to a very dark, heated discussion very

quickly. However, we maintain that whatever you want to share is fair game.

You are now a junior, but started the club last year as a sophomore. What made you want to start this club?

Well I started this club, number one, in response to a lack of meetings from the Young Republicans and

our first members.

Just last week we saw the effect of third parties in other parts of the world, in particular, Germany. There, for the first time in the past forty years, a far right party was elected to the German Parliament or Reichstag. This shows, possibly, the positives and negatives of having a greater platform for a Third

took hold of Germany earlier on that began with an "f" and ended with a "-ascism," that was seen as far right, it shows an eventual movement back to the old systems. This is a little bit strange. However, it must be seen that, with the large influx of refugees to Germany, many citizens want a group that will see stances towards immigration like Trump's and try to emulate it in some way.

So, do you think that it would be beneficial to have a stronger third party in the United States?

I do. I think that if there is a strong third option for people, the Democratic and Republican Parties will have to change their ideas to contend with another competitor. The force and money behind the two massive parties within the US is so large that it becomes hard to see the people and actual ideas behind them. There are people who have good ideas but do not have the backing of lobbyists and other organizations to make them heard.

And you think that a third party would solve this problem?

Totally. Yeah. Even if a third party is small time, of course they are going to have people gunning for them, but they will still be able to get those ideas out there to be heard in the first place.

My last question for you relates back to MBA. You said that you started this club as a sophomore, where do you want to see it when you graduate next year, what role do you see the club as playing on the hill?

I've asked myself this question a lot. At first, I saw no future in the club after the results of the election had died down. But, I have seen it grow. I finally got a table at the activity fair this year and I really started to branch out. I ended up with 60 people signing up. That is a lot of people. A lot of emails. A lot of interest. The future I see lies with the current sophomore class. If I can get them to continue the club then I think it can be established in the high school. I want there to be a space where your political ideas can be shared with everyone and that was my goal when I first set out to create the club.



AGAINST THE NORM: John Preston ('19) hopes to provide a more active club wherein students can discuss and learn about politics. PHOTO: Jack Capizzi

Young Democrats clubs. Those clubs met very infrequently. The meetings were almost nonexistent. Second, there was not a whole lot of love, especially when I created this club, which was actually the day after the 2016 presidential election, for the third parties. I saw Gary Johnson and Jill Stein being hated on and really getting slam-dunked in the polls. I was like, "we need to make people aware of these candidates." I thought that maybe we could give these other guys a chance. The first message I actually sent out about the club was an email attached to the Young Democrat's previous email and that is how we got

Party in a country. How do you, as a representative of the Third Party Club, feel about that issue?

Well, ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany has been in a period of flux. Given the vast amount of political parties in Germany, especially in comparison to the United States, it does make sense that an outside party may rise to be in the cream of the crop in terms of parties in a country. People get tired of old politics. If they haven't been working in the past then how can they function now? The AfD though, because they are rather far to the right, and there was a little something that

New Faces on the Hill (*Continued from page 13*)

Huntre Woolwine (‘12) Adds Experience to Theater Program

What are you looking forward to in regards to working at MBA?

I'm looking forward to our first mainstage show, *Animal Farm*. I'm excited to really use the theater to its fullest potential. Over time, I'll have an even better grasp for where everything's located. I've been organizing backstage, and a little bit of lighting storage and eventually I'm going to hit costumes and props. Once we have all of that figured out, we're gonna sell off a lot of stuff, increase the budget, and refurbish a lot of our technologies. I'm also looking forward to the new athletic facility, because that means the athletic storage in the theater is gonna move and I'm gonna be able to move all of our stuff down there and we'll be able to use all of our space as it was originally intended to be used. I'm also looking forward to potentially starting a "theater techie club," I know there's already a crew of kids who like to do this stuff, but if we have a

little organization to it, more things would get done and we'd be able to keep the place running smoothly and have everyone on the same page --- the more communication we have between each other, the better. I think what we've got going on is pretty great, I've never seen the students so friendly with one another in the theater department, everyone seems to pretty much be on good terms with everybody. I think Dr. Fuller has done a great job, and, with the additions of Mr. Chambers and Mr. Berry in the department too, I think it's getting a little more attention. I'm really looking forward to seeing what the students come up with in Studio Theater. I'd like to be involved in a little acting coaching if I can, because that's been something I've always been passionate about, I just tend to work on all sides so I don't have time to give it as much attention.

Ms. Crystal Russell is Excited to Work with

Do you have any interesting hobbies?

I was in the skydiving club when I was in college. I have my motorcycle

license. I'm learning how to cook.

Do you have any favourite movies or tv-shows?

The Newsroom and The West Wing are my favorite tv-shows. Currently, I am up to speed with Scandal. My favourite movie is Shawshank Redemption.

What were you up to this summer?

Saying my goodbyes and moving.

Mr. Casey Cook Switches Sidelines

What brought you to MBA this year?

In college- I went to Kenyon College in Ohio- we had, as part of our American Studies program, which is what I majored in, we were able to take a trip to Cleveland. We were able to stay with some Kenyon alums and basically shadow so teachers for a week, in Cleveland. That really opened my eyes to the power of teaching. Specifically, one day, in a span of 10 minutes, this student whom I had worked with in class- I had tutored her in class. The next day, after school, she said, "Bye, Mr. Cook." And I was like 'wow, that's my name,

and I hardly even helped her out'.

That just shows the impact you can have on kids' lives that you don't think about. It just made me think, if I can touch her life in 10 minutes, then what can I do in a whole year? What kind of impact could I have in a kid's life in a whole year, or a whole two or three years? That's what I'm really trying to accomplish--just realizing the fact that I can have an impact on kids' lives, and help them not only in sports and academics, but help them in their character--that really made me want to teach.

What's the biggest surprise you've had as a football coach?

The biggest surprise to me so far is how focused these guys are, and how much work they put into it, and how much work they really focus on being great. That's great for me as a coach because it makes my job easier. When you have guys that want to work, and want to do well, as much as these guys, it makes it all that much more fun to coach, and help them out, help them reach their goals.

Ringo Starr Still Strong at 77

By Mauro Mastrapasqua
Staff Writer

On September 15, 2017, former Beatle drummer Ringo Starr released his most recent and nineteenth solo album *Give More Love*.

In this album, Starr, now seventy-seven years young, plays exactly what he loves, and he does not miss a beat. He told Billboard, "I love joy... I'm still doing what was my dream at 13, and that's playing. I think that helps."

The overall feeling of the album is optimistic and happy (hence the songs "Laughable" and "Give More Love"), and it is reminiscent of other artists originating in the sixties.

Much of this album was influenced by Ringo Starr's work with the Beatles. He quotes his Abbey Road song "Octopus's Garden" at the end of *Give More Love*'s version of "Don't Pass Me By." This song was also a remake of the same song on the Beatles' White Album.

Furthermore, remakes of "Back off Boogaloo" and "Photograph" appear on the album, both of which were co-written by George Harrison.

Additionally, Paul McCartney appears on the album, playing bass for the songs "We're On the Road Again" and "Show Me the Way."

Nashville has a direct influence on the song "So Wrong For So Long." Ringo wrote a few songs to be recorded specifically in Nashville, but these recording sessions were unfortunately cancelled.

MBA's Mr. Spiegl is a surprisingly avid Beatles fan. In a somewhat critical analysis, he shared, "I heard the Beatles from '65 to '70, and I wasn't interested because I thought there was so much more out there. I thought [Ringo Starr] was a boob with the Beatles since everyone focused on the writers."

Mr. Spiegl continued: "But looking back on them all artists have borrowed from them at some point; they were true musical innovators."

Incidentally, all of the Beatles wrote original material for their albums. On every album, Paul McCartney and John Lennon would write four or five songs, George Harrison would get two, and Ringo Starr would get one.

Mr. Spiegl was not as interested in

Ringo Starr's solo career as George Harrison's, but his favorite song was "It Don't Come Easy," one which features both Harrison and Starr. He thought Starr peaked with "the one where he tries marijuana, whiskey, cocaine and the one with a Tennessee reference ['No No Song']."

He also recalled that Starr was the first to play the role of the conductor on the old kids television show Shining Time Station (Thomas the Tank Engine).

Fellow scientist Mr. Pruitt was not as gracious when asked about Ringo Starr, saying that Starr was "the least talented of all the Beatles."

As for the songs themselves, this album is chock full of feel-good songs. "We're On the Road Again" is the perfect song to open the album because the first thing one hears on the album is a solid guitar lick that sets the mood and pace.

Most songs maintain a classic country feel to them with their



LOOKING GOOD: Ringo Starr poses for his new album, proving that he has not lost a step in the last few years.

bluesy structures via their use of the acoustic guitar and pedal steel. Yet, Starr frequently uses autotune for his vocal melodies. Also, "King of the Kingdom" features a saxophone which plays in the background, adding a nice touch as the sax and melody contrast rhythms.

All in all, Ringo Starr put out a solid album that thoroughly displays his undiminished energy and virtuosity after all these years.

It Sparks Nostalgia, Impresses Audience

By Harrison Kidd
Staff Writer

The anticipation for It was tremendous, and in its first weekend at the box office, It earned 123 million dollars, shattering the record for the most money earned in a single weekend by a horror movie. While critics have pointed to the source material's nostalgic elements and the buzz surrounding the casting of actors from Stranger Things as padding for these box office draws, the revenue is well deserved.

This rendition of It features a more subtly creepy Pennywise than the clown of the 1980s It miniseries. His lazy eye, buckteeth, drool, lisp, and more cartoonish appearance make him even scarier in comparison to the Pennywise from a few decades ago.

Another aspect of the film is its ability to capture the essence of the 80s. It excels in creating the small-town environment reminiscent of *The Goonies* or *Stranger Things*.

Not only is the film sentimental and nostalgic, but it is also relatable to audiences via its perfect encapsulation of high school life. It has the mean girls, the tomboy, the "new kid on the block," the bullies, etc. Even the "loser's club," the film's main group of friends, embodies a high school

trope as they are all a bunch of nerds. They are simply fun to watch.

Fear serves as an illusion and a roadblock throughout the movie. In the end, Pennywise is the embodiment of fear itself. All of the children's fears are exposed through exposition in the movie. The childish fear of the painting in the father's office, the disgusting leper, the fear of being unclean, fire--- all of the kid's fears are regarded and treated differently in the movie.

Audiences, including the MBA crowd, loved *It*. After screaming for three hours, Ben Jabolinski was somehow able to utter the words "I thought it was a stream of jump scares that made me spooked yet the story kept me captivated." Andrew Falls, a little more well put together, agreed with Ben, further elaborating, "I thought it was one of the few horror movies with a decent plot that still managed to get the scares right."

Although many loved the new *It*, many realized it was not perfect. One reason for this was due to the predictability of its plot. Moments such as the early scene involving the use of a cattle prod as a weapon obviously foreshadowed the following events. Also, certain plot points fell flat such as when Georgie, an innocent child, was killed on screen three times.

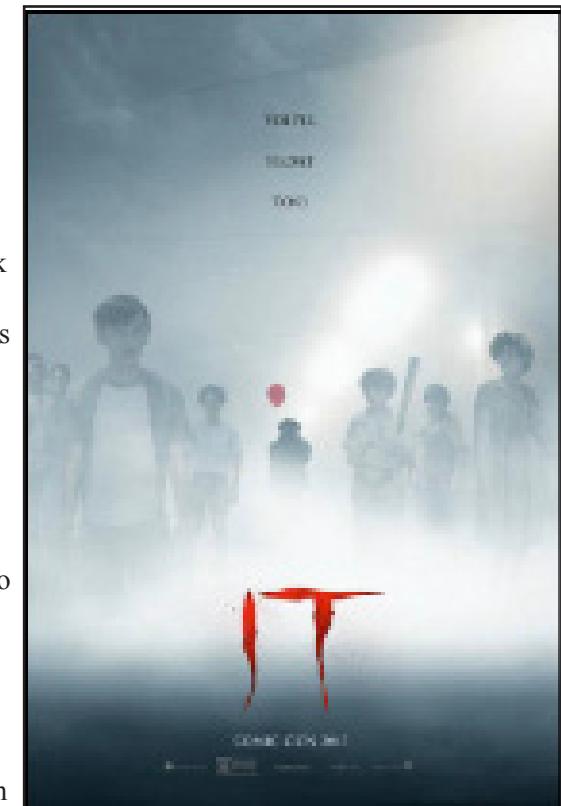
Also, the morally ambiguous love triangle stays stagnant and boring, adding nothing to the overall effect of the movie.

Several theories have been developed regarding *It*, relating to the parents in particular. All of the adults act strange and look grotesque in the film. Eddie's mother, Beverly's father, Henry's father, and even the doctor and the librarian look almost beast-like, and loom over the children. Something is going on with the adults.

Perhaps they are portrayed like this to symbolically allude to the parents and their true value to the film. Because, in truth, the parents are the root cause of Pennywise's existence. All of the parents belittle their children and cause them to be afraid, with Beverly and Eddie's parents serving as perfect examples.

All of the children are the results of their abusive parents. When the children are not able to move past their fear, they are unable to further themselves. In extreme examples, like with Henry, they fall.

However, this theory could take an even deeper turn. Take the example of Ben reading up on the explosion in the library. In the part where the



SPOOKY TALES: "It" depicts a horrifying story through the familiar charm of nostalgia. MOVIEPHONE

pages are flipping, viewers who pay attention can see the librarian staring directly at Ben the entire time this is happening. Even if all of this are just random ramblings from various fans of the movie, the fact that these theories are possible at all show the depth and quality of the film.

Foo Fighters Branch Out, Continue to Impress

By Landis Hall
Staff Fighter of Foo

On their latest album Concrete and Gold, the Foo Fighters embrace a more experimental, almost psychedelic sound and combine it with their own signature hard alternative rock sound. It is indeed a far cry from their classic albums like *The Colour and the Shape*.

The echoes of past rock bands reverberate throughout the album. Led Zeppelin's influence can be heard on "Make it Right," and Pink Floyd has its mark on "The Sky is a Neighborhood" and the title track.

The most prevalent influence on the album, however, comes from the Beatles and their album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, which just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in May. The band has stated that the album is meant to sound like "Motörhead's version of Sgt. Pepper's."

Like every Foo Fighters album, frontman and guitarist Dave Grohl steals the show. His vocal range, spanning from the soft and melodic to the loud and violent, is more dynamic on this album in comparison to previous ones.

Lyrical, Grohl writes about the current state and future of the country "politically, personally, as a father, American, and a musician." However, the complex, Beatle-esque sound overshadows the lyrical content of the album. This overshadowing is probably a byproduct of the album's producer, Greg Kurstin.

Having produced for big names such as Adele, Kendrick Lamar, and former Oasis singer Liam Gallagher in the past year alone, Kurstin has recently emerged as one of the most renowned producers in the music business.

For a Foo Fighters album, a surprising number of guest artists appear, including Justin Timberlake, Alison Mosshart of The Kills, and Boyz II Men's Shawn Stockman. However, the highlight guest artist is definitely Paul McCartney, whose presence is very appropriate considering the Beatles' influence on the album. He plays drums on the track "Sunday Rain" while normal drummer Taylor Hawkins switches to lead vocals.

Overall, the reaction to the album has been positive with most listeners noting a step up in quality as compared to 2011's *Wasting Light* and

2014's *Sonic Highways*.

MBA's own resident music connoisseur and band instructor Jordan Frederick had high praise for the album, saying, "I thought the new album harkened back to *The Colour and the Shape* and had a great variety of styles, from the typical rock anthem to the more subdued." He also noted the contrast between their last two albums and the new boundaries they broke musically.

Fans of the Foo Fighters will be satisfied with the balance of the band's classic sound with this new one. The only real drawback is the chronic issue of LP filler. Not every track is as memorable as the band would have wanted it to be, but in their defense, most albums suffer from this problem.

Concrete and Gold is probably the best Foo Fighters album since *Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace*, which is now nearly ten years old. The album is available on both streaming services and physical formats. The vinyl version comes with two LP discs as well as a special etching on side four.

Don't forget to catch the Foo



CONCRETE AND GOLD: The Foo Fighters take a different approach to their new album.

Fighters on tour when they come to Nashville on October 23!

of high school life. It has the mean girls, the tomboy, the "new kid on the block," the bullies, etc. Even the "loser's club," the film's main group of friends, embodies a high school

Titans Look to Finally Return to Playoffs

By Ben Coulthard
Editor-in-Chief

On Christmas Eve in 2016, Tennessee Titans fans hoped quarterback Marcus Mariota could deliver an early Christmas present with a win over their division rival, the Jacksonville Jaguars, a win that would all but secure a spot in the playoffs. However, the Titans and their fans went to bed that night, not with visions of sugarplums dancing, but instead with the fate of their season all but flipped. The Titans lost to the lowly Jaguars 38-17, but the biggest story that came from the game was the end to Marcus Mariota's



SUPER BOWL? The Titans sure hope they can make it to the promised land.

season. Mariota fractured his fibula during the game after he was tripped up from behind and his leg rolled up behind him. Mariota's playing days in 2016 were over, along with the Titans'

playoff hopes.

Even with the disappointment of being right on the edge of the first trip to the playoffs since 2008, many NFL experts saw the potential of the Titans team that returned along with a few offseason acquisitions. In the preseason, the Titans were ranked in the top 10 of multiple power rankings. With the high-octane offense led by the young Hawaiian quarterback combined with the number-4 ranked offensive line ranked by ProFootballFocus, the Titans seemed primed to make a deep playoff run.

However, questions still surrounded the volatility of the team that had gone 3-13 just two years before. Could head coach Mike Mularkey prove he had the ability to harness the talent provided to him and translate it to success on the field? Would Marcus Mariota show any signs of setback after his knee injury? And could the Titans defensive corps continue its dominating success that proved to be the difference in multiple games last year? While these questions proved legitimate, only the play on the field could prove if the Titans were capable of the praises they got from journalists in the offseason.

Even through the four preseason games the Titans played, there were no true answers to the offseason questions presented by writers. Mariota looked comfortable in his first action back, but

with such a small sample size due to trying to avoid another injury, it was hard to determine if he could return to his true form. Injuries also plagued the team throughout the preseason with running back DeMarco Murray missing time with a nagging hamstring injury as well as rookie wide receiver Corey Davis missing the entirety of the preseason with a hamstring injury. While it was only preseason, the Titans went 1-3, losing games to the Jets and Bears, both teams the Titans outmatched on paper.

Once the regular season finally came, the Titans opened against the Oakland Raiders, a team that matched up similarly with the Titans, having a young quarterback as well as a strong receiving corps. The game was a back and forth affair, and it ended up that the offense struggled more than the defense, something very few would have predicted after the Titans averaged 28.7 points per game the year before. Multiple drives saw the Titans stall out in the red zone, settling for short field goals. This proved to be the turning point in the game, as the Raiders were able to maintain momentum with their defense bending but not breaking. Oakland pulled away late, with Marshawn Lynch pounding the ball down the throat of the Titans defense, and the Titans lost 26-16.

Head coach Mike Mularkey was pleased with the effort of his team,

especially with it being the first game of the year, but stated clearly, "We came up short. I didn't like that we had to kick a field goal in the red zone. We need to finish drives much better, and we need to convert third downs." Mularkey made it clear to his team, specifically his offense, that they needed to find another gear in their play if they expect to be playoff contenders late in the year.

After the tough defeat, the Titans responded to the loss and their coach with resounding victories over division rival, the Jacksonville Jaguars, as well as a perennial powerhouse in the Seattle Seahawks. Marcus Mariota led the offense, responding to Mularkey's comments, by averaging 32 points against two superior defenses, specifically against Seattle and their self-proclaimed "Legion of Boom". Currently standing at 2-1, the Titans are in the driver's seat in the standings, holding first place in the AFC South. They look forward to games against division foes in the Houston Texans and Indianapolis Colts in games that are essentially must-wins due to their positioning in division play which determines playoff seeding. If Mariota can lead the offense similar to their opening games and defensive guru Dick LeBeau shores up some minor holes in the defense, the Titans deserve to be hosting a playoff game at Nissan Stadium come January.

Nashville Predators Preseason Preview

By Robert Cowan
Webmaster

As Patric Hornqvist put the puck off Pekka Rinne's back with about 1:30 left in game six of the Stanley Cup Final, all 17,000 fans shed a tear as they knew the magical run for the Preds was coming to an end. After sweeping the first seed, Chicago Blackhawks, in the first round. Singing the Blues to the Blues in the second round, and roasting the Ducks in the third round. The Preds created something the city of Nashville had never seen before, but after that loss in game 6 all of that was behind them and preparations began for the 20th season.

It did not take long for GM, David Poile, to switch up the team in order to ensure another run to the Finals. On July 1st, as free agency opened, Poile made to major moves. First he traded household name Colin Wilson to the Colorado Avalanche for a fourth round pick. Wilson was not producing enough and according to many sources the Preds and Wilson were "getting



REPEAT? The Predators look to win the Stanley Cup this time.

frustrated with his inconsistent playing." Trading Wilson will allow better and younger talent to have a chance at making the team this season. Also on July 1st, the Preds made their first major signing, Nick Bonito from the Pittsburgh Penguins. Bonito missed a majority of the Stanley Cup Final with a broken foot but he will play a major role for the Preds as his veteran presence will provide a good replacement for Mike Fisher as he retired. The Preds also lost James Neal to the expansion trade. Personally I think this was the right move by the Preds as Neal's skating ability was not the greatest and his goal scoring ability can and will be matched by

Kevin Fiala, who should be playing in his first full season with the Preds.

Another big box that needed to be checked off for Poile and the Preds were the big resigning that needed to be addressed in order to keep the core of the team together. And what Poile was able to accomplish was amazing. There were four player that needed a new contract; Ryan Johansen, Viktor Arvidsson, Frederick Gaudreau, and Pontus Åberg. Åberg and Gaudreau were pretty low cap hit at \$650,000 and \$666,000 per year respectively. The main concern was getting Arvidsson, who was a 30 goal scorer, and Johansen, top line center, contracts and not go above the salary cap. Poile was able to sign both of them below the cap and still have about \$6 million left over. Arvidsson signed a 7 year \$29.75 million contract worth \$4.25 million a year, and Ryan Johansen to an 8 year \$64 million contract worth \$8 million a year. Poile was able to lock down to core of Nashville's team for less than any other team.

Coming into training camp, the

main question was who is going to replace Mike Fisher, he retired, as the captain of the team, and Roman Josi was chosen to take the leadership role. With Josi as captain, Ryan Ellis was named associate captain and Ryan Johansen, Filip Forsberg, and Mattis Ekholm were named assistant captains.

Looking ahead to what the team will look like for the new season, as of writing this article the Preds finished the preseason 2-2-2 and the roster had not been finalized but I'm guessing it will look about the same as last year but with some changes. With Ryan Ellis out the first half of the season with a knee injury, look for Alexei Emelin to take over his spot in the top four, and look for potentially seeing Vladislav Kamenev, the young Russian talent, on the opening day roster.

The 20th season of the Nashville Predators is looking like it could be another Cup run. Will all the pieces come together again? Let's hope so.

MLS to Nashville: Not Your Average Southern Sport

By John Raulston Graham
Staff Footy Fanatic

Even in January the statement, “An MLS team is coming to Nashville,” seemed unlikely to be uttered by anyone. This December, the MLS plans to continue their expansion by adding two new teams to the league. However, recent developments in both Nashville and competing cities across the country mean that Nashville will be tapped for one of those two coveted franchises, as Nashville has caught the attention of the MLS office.

The “MLS2Nashville” group met at MBA to discuss the progress of the MLS bid from Nashville so far and the future of the proposal. With the members of the committee, MBA faculty, and students in attendance, the committee announced that it would need to submit the stadium plans to the City Council by one of the two October meetings in order to meet the December date when the MLS chooses the expansion teams, and that was the last step in bringing the team to Nashville. The committee urged everyone in attendance to rally support for the team and the passage of the stadium plan.

The MLS has a few prerequisites that Nashville must meet in order to host a franchise. The first is a strong ownership group, which Nashville feels that it has as meetings have progressed.

The second is a strong market for soccer, which Nashville definitely has with the quick expansion of the Nashville soccer club, as well as the attendance level to the Gold Cup game played in Nashville in July, which the MLS offices were specifically impressed with.

There has been mixed response to the plans for an MLS team in Nashville. MBA alum John Ingram has led the charge in bringing the team to Nashville and has been a key investor. Sophomore McGavock Cooper said in reference to the chance of being an MLS team to Nashville, “After seeing how Nashvillians came out to support the Predators, I think a MLS team would be good for city spirit. However, I don’t think that the city should pay for the stadium.” McGavock shares the opinion of many Nashvillians, which is the desire to have a team, and re-experience what was created with the Predators, but do not want the city to bear the financial burden. Junior William Davis when asked about the prospects of a MLS team coming to Nashville said, “MLS has no place in Nashville.” Some like Davis believe that the MLS will only take away from other sports and not have consistent support.

It is understandable that the committee desires to rally support for the bid. While many real soccer fans are excited to finally have a major league team, much opposition has

come to the stadium. Both the site, which would sit on the current fairgrounds, and the funding by the city have drawn public backlash. Yet the support stems from a desire to replicate the magic that was produced during the NHL playoffs, which brought the city together. However, more support might possibly stem from the economic opportunity presented by having a team. A sports team has proved to be a great return on investment for cities bringing in fans to the area, and a venue for other events.

The real concern with Nashville for the MLS is having a stadium whose primary purpose is the soccer. The committee has hired international renown HOK Architecture, which has completed past projects like Mercedes-Benz Stadium and the upgrades to Hard Rock Field, but who has little experience with MLS soccer. Current renderings have been based on a project, where Vanderbilt would participate in the funding and plays their home football games there. However, Vanderbilt has not yet committed to being in on the project. (Update: Vanderbilt announced after deadline they would not move from the current home stadium on campus) There are also concerns about the location of the stadium as it would take much of the current fairgrounds



STADIUM ISSUES: Will the MLS2Nashville group's stadium rendering be enough for an expansion team?

area away and be disruptive to local neighborhoods. All of these uncertainties create the greatest obstacle in the way of Nashville acquiring a team.

It appears as if Sacramento has all but locked up one of the two franchise set to be handed down in December, but the Nashville is very much in contention for the second spot, along with bids from Detroit and Cincinnati. While both of them are positioned well, Nashville still lacks a clear solution to the MLS stadium issue. They have a growing market, and population and economic growth rates that are both steadily increasing. The MLS offices are greatly interested in Nashville and have repeatedly said so in meetings with Nashville officials, but that the only obstacles that are preventing them from picking Nashville is the stadium situation.

US Men's National Team Looks to Secure World Cup Bid

By Jack Capizzi
Staff Footy Fanatic

Tonight, while MBA is thrashing Ensworth on the football field, another game of huge importance will be taking place in Orlando. There, the United States Men’s National Team will face off against Panama in a crucial match that will have a huge effect on whether or not the Red, White, and Blue will be seen at next year’s World Cup. The United States currently sit in fourth place of the six Central and Northern American teams fighting for three spots in Russia next summer.

Earlier this year, the United States Men’s National Team tied Mexico 1-1 at the infamous “Azteca” Stadium in Mexico City, a venue that the US rarely walks away from unscathed. This surprising result was met with plaudits for the resilience of the National Team as well as the newly appointed coach, Bruce Arenas. The result was crucial for the United States in terms of their chances of qualifying for the World Cup in Russia next summer. Any momentum and optimism gained from

this result, however, was tarnished in the most recent international break. On September 1, Costa Rica strolled into the Red Bull Arena in New Jersey and promptly defeated the United States 2-0, walking away with a crucial win in the hexagonal battle for World Cup qualification.

The loss to Costa Rica was the first of Bruce Arena’s second stint as United States Men’s National Team coach. This loss broke the levee holding back criticism of Arena. About one year ago, Bruce Arena, a coach whose resume includes a previously mediocre spell coaching the United States in the early 2000’s as well as other achievements such as coaching the University of Virginia to a handful of National Championships, replaced Jurgen Klinsmann, a German born coach whose history includes winning a World Cup with West Germany in 1990, leading the German National Team to a World Cup semi-final, as well as coaching Bayern Munchen, as the manager of the United States National Team. While criticism of Arena had been hard to find prior to the loss to Costa Rica, questions regarding

his qualifications for the job as well as the validity of Klinsmann’s firing were raised.

These questions were left unanswered on September 5th when the United States lost to Honduras, the 74th ranked team in the world, 1-1. This result was the equivalent of the MBA varsity football team losing to the Oak Hill sixth grade football team on the last week of the regular season. It was a game that they should have won, and the final result did nothing to help their chances of making a successful playoff run.

When the United States played Panama in a Gold Cup match at Nissan Stadium in Nashville this summer, it became clear that the United States had problems to sort out. Their performance drew many to describe the team as “languid,” “disinterested,” and “uninspired.” Their recent form has done nothing in the way of responding to their poor form.

Alexi Lalas, a former United States defender, went through the team player by player in his commentary of the Honduras game, addressing some of the attitude problems of the United

States players and administration. The highlights of his rant against the team included such comment as, “To Bruce Arena, Jurgen Klinsmann lost at home to Mexico, you lost at home to Costa Rica -- this is now all on you,” and, “Tim Howard, the Belgium game was four years ago, we need you to start making saves now.” While Lalas’s criticism may seem harsh, it cannot be discarded as false.

The problem with the United States National team lies with its attitude. For a National Team to show such a lack of enthusiasm to play for their country is inexcusable. One solution to the team’s problems could be as simple as reviving the spirit of the National Team that has been so evident in their great performances at such competitions as the previous World Cup.

If the United States wishes to participate at the World Cup in 2018, they must start winning, now. If the United States can have a definitive win against Panama tonight, they may just be back on track to reach Russia next summer.

Battered and Bruised: Big Red Roll to 7-0

By Palmer Thombs
Associate Editor

The Big Red are rolling into tonight's matchup at 7-0, an achievement that they have reached two times in the past three seasons. It hasn't been an easy road to the undefeated record though, as MBA has been battered and bruised all season long. Questions regarding the situation at running back and how an experienced quarterback would be used surrounded the program at the season's start, but have answered in the opening months of high school football.

The journey began before school started with Wooddale High School from Memphis, Tennessee. The talented linebackers of the Cardinals were unable to shut down the Big Red offense as MBA



TRIFECTA: (L to R) Nick German, Jake Herbstreit, and Gordon Pollock run off the field following an interception against Pearl-Cohn.

cruised to a 44-0 victory. But the tides turned quickly as MBA found itself trailing 12-0 the following week to Pearl Cohn. A second quarter scoring frenzy brought the Big Red back to lead at the half, and Michael McGuire's four touchdowns on the night prevailed MBA to a 45-26 victory. The Big Red received a tough blow though as senior running back, Tay Munoz, was injured on the opening kickoff of the game, later to be informed that he had torn his ACL and his season was over.

The third week brought about more challenges as MBA found itself trailing once again, this time 10-0 to regional opponent, McCallie. But the Big Red bounced back, led by a strong night from the offensive line, who opened holes for the running backs and

protected quarterback Ty Allen. The defensive unit, led by an experienced group of secondary players in safeties Gordon Pollock and Nick German as well as cornerback Fenner Pollock, shut down the powerful Blue Tornado offense and MBA came away with a 35-23 win.

A road trip to Memphis to take on the Owls of Memphis University School awaited the MBA in week four. In what was the first long bus ride for many of the team's key players, the Big Red started slow. MBA faced adversity with losses to injuries as right tackle, Wesley Hall, was replaced by sophomore, Ned Freeland, who got hurt himself. After shifting around the offensive line, MBA had Michael McGuire go down with an injury to his

elbow as well as star defensive player Jackson Hannah exit the game due to a deep cut that needed stitches. Despite all these challenges, MBA, trailing at the end of the first three quarters,

drove ninety-eight yards to tie the game at twenty one and force overtime. In the overtime, Ty Allen connected with Clint Blackwell on a twelve yard stick route for the score to give MBA its first lead of the night at 28-21. Nick German and the defense prevented the Owls from scoring, and the Big Red traveled home as victors.

In a traditional rivalry game, MBA topped Father Ryan on the road, 28-21. After leading 14-0, the Irish battled back to knot the game at 14, and once again at 21. A Ty Allen quarterback keeper with just under two minutes left on the clock changed that, as he took it fifty-four yards for the go ahead score. Harrison Graves and Clay Garstin led the defense and shut down the Irish offense on the ensuing drive, giving MBA a second region win.



FOCUSED: Jackson McFadden looks to score a touchdown after a reception against Pearl-Cohn.

Blowout wins on the road over the Knights of Pope John Paul II and Spartans of White Station, 42-7 and 49-14 respectively, have given MBA time to get healthy, time for younger players to get some reps, and time for MBA to get ready for the season's final stretch. Wesley Hall has returned to the offensive line after missing two games as well as senior captain Jackson McFadden to the talented receiving core. Michael McGuire looks to return in the late weeks of the season as the Big Red push towards the playoffs. While the postseason awaits, MBA is focused on overcoming the adversity that they have faced thus far, and the challenges of rivalry games against Ensworth and Brentwood Academy as well as yet another road trip, this time to Chattanooga to take on Baylor.

"I think that the adversity we have faced so far just has shown

us that everyone has to be ready for their number to be called," said senior captain, Jackson McFadden. "Also, it has created more depth on our team with all the injuries so far, because the backups are getting valuable reps while the starters are hurt."

Examples of these backups who have stepped up to the challenge of their missing starters are junior running backs Brendan Harris and Sam Dugan. Both have seen their playing time increase with McGuire and Munoz out of the lineup, and their production will be key for the Big Red to make a deep playoff run come November and December.

McFadden said, "I believe that if we play to our full potential, we will be very happy come December 2nd when we are holding that gold ball at the fifty yard line in Cookeville."



BIG RED SANDWICH: Senior Harrison Graves (#10) and junior Ian Hall (#50) combine for a tackle in the backfield.

Cross Country Primed for a Rebound Season

By Matthew Kaplan
Assistant News Editor

Young men arrive at 8:00 a.m., some earlier, and for some oversleeping individuals, a few minutes later. A few cars leave as young men exit their passenger doors, but most cars park with a young man exiting from the driver's seat, after turning his car off. Where these men come from, when they get there, and how they got there, doesn't matter. Because these men all have something in common: a white MBA cross country top, and short red shorts to go along with it. Not only that, but each man possesses possibly the same look on his face: dread for an ensuing workout, combined with slight joy at being reunited with his brothers.

It's these Saturdays, as the coaches explain, that separate the good teams from the great ones. Each workout and run is an opportunity to get better, not a burden.

It's hard to acknowledge and embrace the opportunity of a workout before it is completed, but nevertheless, the team takes in one stride at a time, and finishes the workout, hopefully getting better in the process.

What's hard to understand from the outside about cross country is the

teamwork involved. It appears to be a sport of the individual. Only one individual runner gets first place; only 5 runners score for the team; and only 7 runners even get to run in the varsity meet. Physically, no runner can help another runner improve his time.

But this year's MBA cross country team is about so much more than one's physical talent and work.

The cross country team, over the past several years, has developed a pack mentality when it comes to running. Run as a team, attempting to pass other teams as you do. It's this group running that keeps everyone going on an hour and a half of a run, in a speed building exercise, and in the races.

As Coach Russ states about races, "Race as a group. Race. Don't run."

When the team races in groups, in packs, and practices with those packs, a mere team chemistry develops. This chemistry and teamwork to push each other produces better runners with better times- and better places in meets.

Sophomore JV runner Will McEvoy said of the team, "We've got a lot of potential with some new varsity runners. The rest of the team remains determined with a strong

pack mentality."

When asked to elaborate on that pack mentality, Will said, "The pack mentality is what gets us out of bed every morning and drives us to the trails in the cold and even snow. It is the sacred bond that allows us to push each other to our limits."

With the same question, Kiran Peterson stated, "Through thunderstorms and scorching hot days, the unity of working hard together as a pack fuels the entire team forward."

When asked about the pack mentality's effect, Coach Bassett responded, "There's an obvious camaraderie this year that gives the team further energy to achieve success."

In terms of success, the team has been fortunate to pride themselves on great achievements thus far this fall.

In a meet in Knoxville, the team finished third of many for varsity and won the JV meet. Graham Ragsdale finished atop the varsity squad, and Jack Larish finished first overall in the JV meet.

The team is full of talented individuals who remain close together in their finishes. Junior Graham Ragsdale has served as the team's fastest runner thus far. Following him include senior leaders Isaac Wills and Joseph Tarquine, who facilitate

the teamwork and camaraderie surrounding the team.

Team leader and veteran varsity runner Isaac Wills described the team this year: "The team has passed with flying colors thus far. I've been very impressed with the group running and the intra-squad competition. I'd say there are four or five guys who are contending for the last two spots on the varsity, and this competition has been a catalyst for massive PR's and team success. This team has a lot of upside as well. Parker O'Neil and I, who were third and second in the team's season-opening time trial respectively, have dealt with some injuries. While the two of us had mediocre performances at McCallie, we anticipate better races to come as we recover."

Notably, no seniors have scored in the top 5 at either race for the team. Juniors Parker O'Neal, William Barton, and Tillman Dean all contribute to a strong Junior squad, while Will Crawford and John Hyde represent the sophomores in their varsity running efforts. Additionally, freshman Luke Mryncza has made plenty of noise this season with incredible efforts to race with the fastest runners on the team, and has come out an impressive varsity runner.

Big Red Hockey Ready for Rebound Season

By Robert Cowan and Michael Garcia
Staff Rink Rats

Everyone remembers last year's hockey state championship. Ravenwood scored with 23 seconds left in the game and they would go on to win the game in overtime. This game was a tough pill to swallow for the team and was a story all too familiar, but the coaches knew that they could rebound from the game and make the 2017-2018 season the best for the Big Red.

Coming into this season, six seniors graduated: Jacob Kovick, Ellis Moore, Jack Anderson, Noah Wamble, Nick Ray, and Jake Evans. There are some very strong freshman coming into the program this year.

Luke Haley, Will Morrison, and Will Myers highlight the freshman class and bring some very good talent to the defensive side of the puck. One position that will be big for the Big Red this year is goalie. The two biggest losses from last season were Wamble and Anderson as this would leave the most important role on the team, goalie, open. The offseason has been important in training Issac Sedek and Henry Hylbert to fill the void left by the two graduated seniors. Coach Deutsch was able to rent out a state-of-the-art hockey training facility, Breakaway Hockey, in order to grow the team's skill. Here Isaac and Henry were given top notch training to insure they would be ready for the start of the season. This facility also allowed the

incoming freshman to bond and grew the overall team dynamic. The Big Red hockey team also added Ms. Raines to help with off-ice conditioning over the summer and throughout the season. She will push the team to make sure they

will be ready for anything that the competition throws at them. "Legs feed the wolves," and with Breakaway and Coach Raines, the Big Red are ready for anything.

Coach Deutsch and Coach Tim Kovick set up a very balanced preseason for the team that would allow the team to mold together and allow Isaac and Henry to gain more confidence going into the GNASH season. The first of the three trips was a one game voyage to Owensboro, Kentucky. Owensboro came out with the win that game but there were many lessons learned. First, the team learned not to take anything for granted. This was MBA's first loss to Owensboro and having now lost to them, the Big Red must play their hearts out for every game in order to get a win. Second, the importance of teamwork was realized as arguments on the bench would not help win games. A positive from the game was that even though they lost, the Big Red out played Owensboro most of the game and they saw their true potential. Isaac Sedek and Henry played well showing hope for the upcoming year.

The second trip was to Louisville where the Big Red would face off against Trinity High School. With

two back to back games all the conditioning with Coach Raines paid off, as the Big Red dominated the play and out skated Trinity in both games. The difference in play from Owensboro to Trinity was huge. There was a bigger sense of teamwork amongst the group, and the games flowed better. The team's true skill was shown.

The third and final trip of the preseason was to Huntsville, where the Big Red played against the U16 AA Huntsville Chargers. While being the younger team, the Chargers still had some talent that could not be taken for granted. Coach Kovick put it perfectly by saying, "We do not know what any team will have talent wise, we will just have to play our game and we can beat anyone." That's just what they did, winning both games by a score of 5-3 and 8-0. The Big Red dominated play and controlled every aspect. These three weekends will make the difference for the regular season. Isaac and Henry will be ready for anything thrown at them and there is a lot of confidence in their abilities to allow this team to have success.



Psychology of Injuries (cont.)

experienced a lot of depression and isolation because I was literally trapped in my house, and it was difficult for me to articulate the problems with which I was dealing."

Jamison Russ, a senior cross-country and track runner, had similar input. While he was not physically removed like Ford, Jamison felt isolated as a bone bruise on his femur has removed him from most kinetic activity for 18 months and counting.

He shared, "I simply did not believe that it would take me [two years] to heal. Obviously, the doctors were right because I am just now able to resume some physical activity on my leg. . . There are still moments where not being able to run really stinks, especially on a really pretty day or when I watch my friends kick at the finish of race."

Yet, both Ford and Jamison remain adamant in their involvement with their respective sports. By staying engaged, the two asserted that they could diminish the psychologically handicapping effects of their injuries.

"Even though I cannot play basketball this year, I am going to work as the team's videographer. I also have continued to lift and run with the team during offseason workouts, and I plan to make the trips to away games with the team," said Ford.

Jamison emphasized the significance of patience and responsibility in dealing with his

injury: "The biggest challenge for me is that I am cleared to join activity whenever I feel ready. That freedom means that I have no accountability; when my leg feels okay, I get really excited and run, instead of waiting for it to be fully healed. This pattern has probably been a factor in how long I have been hurt."

This cycle has forced Jamison to adapt. Building-up body and muscle strength certainly helps with running, but maintaining cardiovascular shape while being unable to run is a much more daunting task. He has become progressively more creative in maintaining his running form.

Jamison noted, "In the early stages of being injured, I cross-trained in the pool pretty heavily to stay in cardiovascular shape, so that when I was healthy, I could jump right in."

Similarly to Ford, Jamison upholds the importance of staying connected to his team: "With cross country, I have tried to maintain support for the guys, especially on race day, but also just encouragement and discussion in the hallways about how practice and workouts are going."

The third student-athlete The Bell Ringer interviewed was Michael McGuire, the starting running back for the football team. During the Big Red's week four game against MUS, Michael dislocated his left elbow and tore nearly all of the surrounding cartilage.

While Ford's and Jamison's injuries have hindered them for

multiple years, Michael's injury has a much shorter timetable for recovery. He hopes to return for the Brentwood Academy game on October 20.

Michael echoed Jamison's sentiment about denial following the injury: "At first, it took me awhile to get used to the fact that I was actually injured. All I wanted to do was go practice with the guys because we only have so many days left."

That being said, Michael was quick to assert that positivity is a must when playing the mental game: "Very quickly I realized that pouting gets nothing done, so I try to stay positive and work to get back as fast as possible. Luckily, I will be able to return before the end of the season. [Bearing that in mind], I need to come back better than ever, and that keeps me focused."

Michael flips his disappointment over missing football games on its head, allowing these raw emotions to fuel him. He projects enthusiasm on the sideline during games, and he pumps up his teammates when they are in need of a big play.

Michael said, "[I] go to practice every day and get the guys going. The main thing is keeping a positive attitude and enjoying watching your friends play even though you can't."

To that point, Michael reveals another layer in the role of the injured student-athlete: he must carry himself in a way that does not discourage

his teammates. It is imperative that the student-athlete's injury does not distract the focus of the team.

In each of these three cases, the student-athletes have encouraged their fellow teammates not to worry about the implications of their injuries. In the case of Jamison and Ford, they will not compete again in cross-country and basketball respectively, but they have crafted for themselves leadership roles in attempts to make their teams better.

For most football teams, the loss of the starting running back would be a tremendous blow. Consequently, the Big Red's prolongation of their perfect record despite Michael's injury stands as a testament to the mental toughness of the team. Part of that mental toughness is certainly due to the leadership of injured players like Michael, Wesley Hall, or Jackson McFadden.

The psychological battle that injured student-athletes must play is a give-and-take dynamic. They must remain mentally locked-in by keeping the team's goals at the forefront of their recovery effort, and they must not distract the team with a negative mindset.

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New Freshman Class Still Not That Important

By Thomas Peterson, Thomas McCrae, Will Coulthard
Staff Writers

The class of 2021 is kicking off its entrance into the high school with gusto. The school year seemed to begin a little early for some of us, considering we had hoco proposals weeks before school even started. And once the dominoes started to drop that fateful August night, everyone seemed to be dropping pics of them asking on their snapchat stories. Our dark horse to be the talk of Homecoming is **Bo Wilbanks**. The hypest man on the football team is likely to pull a power play on the dance floor which could lead to some contagious jiving from mister **Kinard**. Gentleman Scholar Athlete is the textbook, but the motto “kings do kingly things” should still be held dear to these young gentlemans hearts.

Entering the academic realm of high school was to be feared as an impossibility by all the “froshmen,” but now that our classes are in full stride and mostly sailing through homework and quizzes with ease, we wonder: “how did Mark Antony prepare me for this again?” But none

the less, we are gliding. But everyone needs to scream every now and then.

The freshman class usually uses the student section as a time to scream out academic struggles. When you hear one of us scream, which probably resembles a melodic “weeeeeeee,” please realize that scream means something different on the inside. Some examples would be: “I wasn’t answering with um, I just said it!”, “How does vat not prove vat!”, or the most commonly inferred “I have to do Membean in 45 minutes!” Some other roles have been taken which include the “watch this” guy and the “you won’t throw that bottle” guy.

Some of us now feel a liberating amount of freedom, something never before experienced in the junior school. Expressions of this freedom include wearing Vans and not being reprimanded. Freedom at last! (That is until Coach McMahan sees.)

At this point in the article we would like to request financial support to send **Warner Greene** on a permanent Wilson Grant back to Lithuania after hearing of his adventures and social interactions which seem far beyond that of any MBA boy. Now, he is simply too far

above us, and we can no longer keep cutting his feathers. We must let him spread his wings (preferably in another country).

Now for the realistic and serious portion. We are now officially in high school, and, all jokes aside, this requires us to possess more responsibility and better time-management. Junior school did prepare us for some things, including the empowerment to be our own encouragement and crank out the ominous tests or themes that seem so far away until they are nearly upon us (though cranking out does sometime occur on the morning of said assignment). Nevertheless, with the growing responsibilities comes the expectation that we will not need anyone to hold our hands.

The 9th grade year is off to a fantastic start. We are the largest class in MBA history, and with the wonderful addition of new students, it is up to us to leave a legacy. What will our class be remembered as? What can we do to make this year the best one yet?

wikiHow to Ask a Girl to Homecoming

Two Parts: [Preparing Yourself](#) [Doing the Asking](#) [Community Q&A](#)

Asking somebody out can be very nerve-racking, but it can also be extremely gratifying if you get the answer you want. Read this article to learn how to be date to homecoming with the girl of your dreams!

Part 1 Preparing Yourself



1 Remember that even if a girl says no, the gesture will be appreciated
Part of what makes people so nervous about asking somebody out is the possibility of rejection, or the idea that she will somehow be upset or annoyed

FREQUENTED SITE: Many freshmen will be wondering how to ask their dates to Homecoming and will surely consult this Wikihow (with pictures) guide.

Sophomores Get Lost in a Forrest of Distractions

By Matthew Kaplan and Zach Brown
Staff Legal Team

The beginning of the year brings great energy and masculinity. Such manliness brings **Forrest Sutphin** to feel that he must defend his honor, as a gentleman, and he proposes a fight in front of 1,300 people. Of course, when he shows up for the brawl with an unnamed opponent, Forrest is met by a scary defense system, and he flees, maybe or maybe not spitting on the ground as he drives away with his posse. Still needing to lay one on a junior, Forrest finds more success in the MBA student section, ruthlessly swinging and injuring a ‘19 on the bleachers.

This incident is not to be confused with the bleachers at Father Ryan, which suffered a season ending injury. Pictures of the damage are shown all over social media, and soon enough word goes around that the money is coming out of the class fund. The class fund? Which goes to what, exactly? Well, it’s hard to say, but all of a sudden the class officers feel a need to have an MBA record 800 bake sales in one quarter to help pay for the “The

18.” Just remember that all of the money goes back to you, so it’s in your own interest to bring in food.

Speaking of “The 18,” we have a lot of fun dances planned this year. Right around the corner is Homecoming, an event that should turn out to be a night of amazing memories with friends, just like it was last year. Homecoming is already proving to be slightly different this year. Rather than asking eight months in advance, **Samuel Kirkpatrick** instead decided to spend 8 hours making a poster. Speaking of posters, everyone seems to be making one this year. Whether they’re the most obvious puns involving the girl’s name or a box of Sour Patch Kids for how sour they would feel about getting rejected, the sophomores have been quite creative, original, and innovative.

The sophomore class is especially excited for the “The 18,” or is it the “11/11?” Or maybe the “10/7?” If you’re not sure, just show up to MBA on all of those dates, I’m sure you’ll find something fun to do. Also make sure to follow “The 18” instagram account, before it changes

its username again.

Our esteemed classmate and colleague, **William Sullivan**, has departed from the Hill. Sully’s life on the Hill was eloquent, and we know that he is in a better place: New Hampshire.

We’ll be sure to work hard and play hard throughout this semester, not necessarily in that order and not necessarily both. We wish everyone the best of luck throughout the stretch to Fall Break.



BIG POSTER GUY: Samuel Kirkpatrick shows off his artistic side when asking his date to Homecoming.

Juniors Surprise No One, Get Off to a Rough Start

By Sam Dugan and Jackson Lyell
Staff Writers

Another year, and the “Ls” just keep coming for the Big Red juniors. We are yet to figure it all out. We have continued to cause issues throughout the school, even when we don’t mean to.

Expect many upcoming bake sales as a result of recent events that occurred at the Father Ryan game. The rowdy student section inadvertently destroyed the visiting-team bleachers from a few weeks ago. Now, we need to raise money to pay for the damages we made on the bleachers. Bring money to school for upcoming bake sales at break and before school to support the cause.

Recently, the Reference Room has not served to its full potential in 8th period study hall as a result of one student: **Braden Myers**. Braden’s notorious actions have caused many students to lose their privileges in such a great room. When asked about his punishment, he said, “Wait, what, when, where?” We love you, Brady.

Garrett “AP Music Theory” Murphy is a great example of a student who has just gotten off to a rough start. According to shirtless

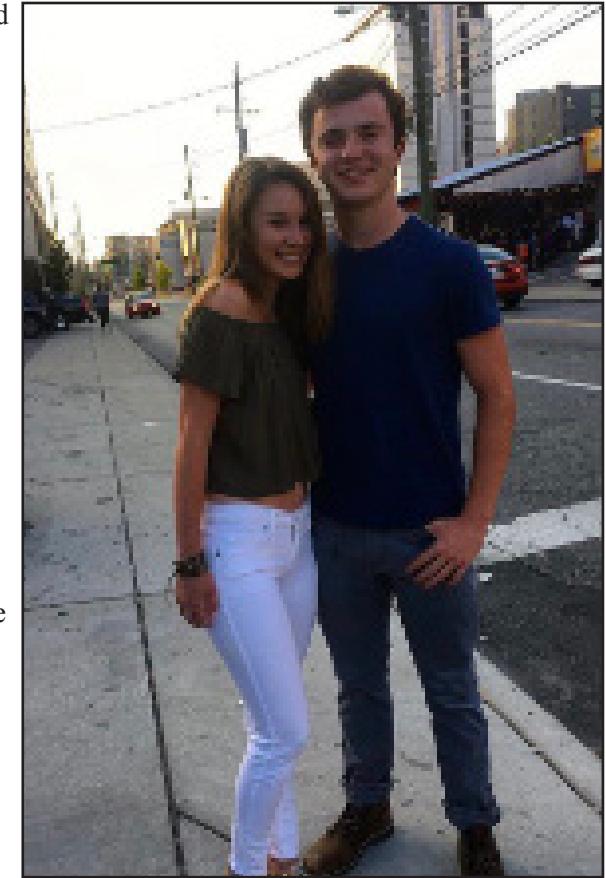
Garrett, AP Music Theory is the “hardest class at MBA.” He has even cited complaints that the instructor forces him to keep his shirt on for the duration of the class. As many know, staying fully dressed has been quite a challenge for Mr. G. Thankfully, Garrett Murphy has made up for his AP music theory obsession by introducing a new surfboard class which has triggered a movement throughout the country. He has also been spotted at the popular restaurant, Cookout Grille, a record 46 times in the last 2 months. **Grant “Neanderthal” Ellison** is closely behind with 39.

I believe now we may have set a new record for most fallen soldiers in one class throughout this school’s storied 150 year history. We have had a myriad of students leave this institution by expulsion, but our most recent classmate, going by the name “Darren,” left the school by choice. His decision to join the Eagles shocked many across the school and left the 2019 class with mixed emotions. He is now the starting quarterback for the Eagles and a 5-star prospect in the 2019 class. How will the Big Red handle such immense talent? His former best friend,

Brandon Myers, commented on this development, “I don’t really care.” Those are some bold words there, Brando. Fellas, some guys just can’t handle the Hill.

Be on the lookout for the 3-10 event featuring the two most popular Nashville DJs, DJ Drawgz and Will “Pupil” Nahley. Joseph “Beegje” Stevens even said, “Ahh fahh this event will big uhhh bigger than the ahhh 408!”. Thank you to staff member **Jackson Lyell** for translating that last quote. But seriously, the 3-10 is set to break revenue records for an MBA event. The set list will be released soon. Be ready.

As the weeks go on, we can only hope for improvement. Thankfully, **Gibby “I can drive” Gibson** and **William “Lev Curdwall” Wheeler** will lead us to victory.



GIRLS: William “Lev Curdwall” Wheeler proves that the Juniors are finding it slightly easier to talk to the other gender.

Seniors Start Slide, Realize College Is So Far Away

By Jack Crawford and Thomas Carr
Staff Writers

Gentlemen, the beginning of the end is upon us. With one final year remaining in our tenure on the hill, we must unite and leave our mark. Our unity is already shining on the football field this season. Led by seniors **Ty “Hammer” Allen, Pollocks 1 and 2, and Mike “White Knight” McGuire**, this year’s team is on a mission for greatness. After a 6-0 start, this squad is taking its already memorable season up against some rivals in Ensworth and BA these next few weeks. Senior right guard **Palmer Thombs**, class stud and face of the franchise, has recently criticized QB1’s turnover tendencies. In response, we must raise the question: Why were unblocked defenders in his face? Just a thought for the audience to ponder. With the football team striving to leave its mark on history, the infamous Breakfast Boys have

already left their “stamp” on the season through bleacher-gate. We encourage everyone to keep up the rowdy enthusiasm, but in a more channeled way that is focused on hyping up our brothers on the field. The Breakfast Club must be out in full force over the last half of this season to help bring the boys out on top.

In the academic realm, AP English has proven to be the most loved class on campus. **General Cal Bryan** enjoys diction so much that we have even found him to sleep with his grammar book! Great dedication, Cal! Señor Caballero Andante (**James McKnight**) has had quite the ride thus far in the fabled Spanish IV AP. He has suffered the wrath of the difficult class, but we know that he will only rise from this valley. Dr. Lech’s 8th period Economics class has proven to be one of legends. The verbal abuse directed at unspecified students has been relentless and will certainly continue throughout the rest of the year. His “worst to first” strategy

has helped to separate the men from the boys at the start of the year. Many thought that Statistics would be a great way to start the senior slide early. However, Coach Jackson has proven that not to be the case. Instead of studying, **Evans Looney** has been focusing on derailing the sophomores in the class which has resulted in the plummet of his grade. Watch your mouth now!

Extra curricularly, **McClain Portis** has been working on an upcoming hype video along with a solo feature on the Big Man on Campus, QB1, **Ty Allen**. Outside of this project, however, the two have seemed to encounter some tension. We hope the two can resolve their differences. Outside of this banter, the class of 2018 has really bonded as one. We are excited to see what else this year has in store for us. Keep your nose to the grindstone, gents.



SENIOR SLIDE STARTS: Isaac Wills is about to lose with college applications, essays, and work that has come with senior year.

MBA Power Rankings

It's football season, which can only mean one thing: fans argue about whether their team should be in the rankings. Here at MBA, we take our rankings a bit differently. But this doesn't mean we're any less serious about rankings. Here's how our staff ranked a few things dear to our hearts on the Hill.

Best Bathrooms

1. **Upstairs of the gym:** Rarely used. Major key.
2. **Lower floor of the Lowry building:** Solid lighting. Easy 8/10.
3. **Upstairs of Wallace:** Secluded. Hard to find. What more could you ask for?

Best Water Fountains

1. **Next to the Junior School locker room:** Best parabolic flow, ice-cold water for after a practice.
2. **Lower floor of Carter:** Does being near College Counseling make it Smartwater?
3. **Any automatic fill fountain:** Big key when hands are full but you still need that bottle filled.

Best SAGE Breakfast Biscuits

1. **Chicken**
2. **Chicken**
3. **Chicken**

Not much argument here. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the best breakfast days.

Best Places to Nap

1. **Library stairwell:** No noise. Key to falling asleep. Waking up is another thing.
2. **Any Lowry bench:** Best dimensions to spread out when you didn't get those 8 hours the night before.
3. **Senior Room:** You'll understand when you're a senior.

Best Little-Known Clubs

1. **Third Party Club:** Up-and-coming. Will they overtake MBA with the Green Party?
2. **Video Game Club:** For when you want to beat Dr. Lech in some classic *Halo*. Good luck with that, btw.
3. **Young Democrats/Young Republicans:** Both are so good we couldn't choose. Bipartisanship at its finest.

Best Times to Do Homework

1. **Morning before 1st period:** Best adrenaline rush you'll get. Coffee can't compare.
2. **Break:** Complemented by some cookies.
3. **Study Hall:** For when you just weren't feeling it the night before.

Best Pep Rally Themes

1. **Backpack Run:** Fun to watch students run. New fitness test idea?
2. **Dance-Off:** To show off your sick moves.
3. **Socker-Boppers:** Time to let off a little steam.